Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Volume 19 Number 5973 AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1995, SAFAR 24, 1416 Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan, Israel provide joint aid to Bosnia

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jordan and Israel will coordinate their efforts next week and send two planes full of relief aid to Bosnia, a Jerusalem Council official said Friday. One plane will leave from Tel Aviv and the other from Amman, the official said. The joint effort was approved Thursday during a meeting in Amman between Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, accompanied by cabinet Chief Eytao Haber, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassao. Meanwhile, Palestinians launched a collection for Bosnians Friday during traditional prayers, taking in 150,000 dollars, said Wakf, the organisation responsible for Muslim religious property in East Jerusalem.

Kabariti, Omani counterpart hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi arrived here Friday on a few-day official visit for talks with his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on means of enhancing bilateral coordination on Arab and international issues. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ben Alawi said his visit to Jordan falls within the context of ongoing coordination and consultation between the two countries. Mr. Ben Alawi expressed happiness about the signs of improvement in the Jordanian-Saudi relations, saying that his country is extremely happy for this development, which will have positive impact on inter-Arab relations. Later Friday, Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Ben Alawi reviewed bilateral relations and means of further enhancing bilateral cooperation and coordination in the various fields. The two ministers also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the latest Serbian attacks against the Muslim people of Bosnia.

Kingdom raises more than JD 4 million in funds to Bosnia

West threatens 'decisive response' if Gorazde attacked

Bosnia criticises London meeting decision as 'half measure'

LONDON (Agencies) — Western allies warned Bosnian Serbs Friday that any attack on the "safe area" of Gorazde will be met with a "substantial and decisive response" which may include air power, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

But U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that any Serb attack on Gorazde would be met with air power.

"Any air campaign in Gorazde will include significant attacks on significant targets. There will be no more pin-prick strikes," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher said the same commitment might be applied to protect other safe areas, including Sarajevo.

Mr. Christopher's statement was at odds with Mr. Rifkind's more cautious summary of the allied agreement, which returned time and against to the formula of a "substantial and decisive response."

"There was strong support for this to include the use of air power, but there was also great concern expressed," Mr. Rifkind told reporters. "Countries are conscious of the serious risks in this course of action."

The agreement fell short of the U.S. proposal for overwhelming air strikes in the event of further Bosnian Serb attacks on the so-called safe areas.

"No one wishes to use air power, no one believes that that by itself will conclude the war in Bosnia, but there was a very clear recognition that the fall of Gorazde, if that was to happen, would signal the end of UNPROFOR's (the U.N. Protection Force) presence in Bosnia," Mr. Rifkind said.

"There was a unanimous determination if at all possible to see UNPROFOR continue in Bosnia, and it's against that background that many people who have in the past been reluctant to contemplate the use of air power recognise that if there was an attack on Gorazde, it would be necessary to respond in the way suggested."

The Russians, in particular, had expressed scepticism about resorting to air strikes to restrain the Serbs.

Earlier, the French backed away from their call for putting more troops into Gorazde immediately to ward off any Bosnian Serb attack.

Mr. Rifkind's statement made no mention of action to protect Zepa, Bihac or Tuzla, and in response to a question Mr. Rifkind affirmed that the threat of "substantial and decisive" action was limited to Gorazde.

"It is at this moment in time uncertain as to the implications of the fighting in the Bihac area, therefore the statement that I have referred to today... refers specifically to Gorazde," Mr. Rifkind said.

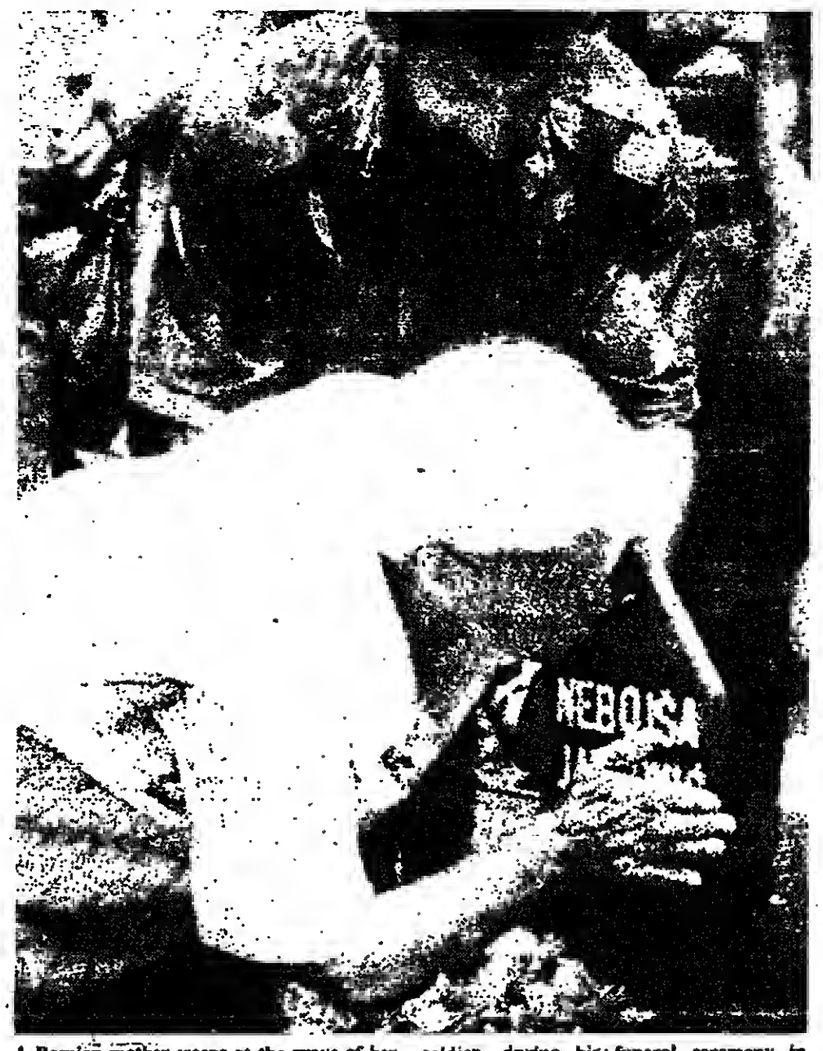
Mr. Christopher said the meeting focused on Gorzade because it appeared under immediate threat.

The London meeting and the American proposal for large-scale air strikes were triggered by last week's Bosnian Serb conquest of the Muslim "safe area" of Srebrenica and the expulsion of thousands of civilians, and the threat that Serb forces would march next on the remaining zones under U.N. protection.

In remarks to the opening session of Friday's conference, Mr. Christopher urged that the U.N. partners "deliver an unambiguous ultimatum" to the Serbs: stop violating the U.N. "safe areas" or face a NATO air assault that would go well beyond the allies' earlier pin-prick strikes, spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters midway through the conference.

The Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic, said he

(Continued on page 7)



A Bosnian mother weeps at the grave of her son, Neboisa Jancovic, a Bosnian government soldier, during his funeral ceremony in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

King, Crown Prince urge action to end Serb aggression

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Muslims, Jews and Christians Friday raised more than four million dinars in funds to Bosnia Herzegovina during a national turned to regional campaign to collect donations for the war-ravaged Bosnian people.

The one-day fund raising campaign, which was supported by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's early contributions, was launched by the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

Jordanians rushed into T.V. studio to cash in their contributions as other Arabs and Israelis called the television to announce their contributions.

In a telephone call with the 'telethon' television programme, the King, who donated JD 50,000 and two desalination plants, voiced appreciation of the initiative.

"I thank every Jordanian... every child. The 50 fils donations are appreciated as much as any other amount," the King said.

Hundreds of people calling the telethon programme from Jordan, and neighbouring countries donated cash and in-kind contributions. Some proposed to adopt Bosnian children, others offered clothes and milk.

"What is happening in Bosnia is a real catastrophe that comes at a time when the whole world is talking about the 50th anniversary of the United Nations while inhumanitarian practices are continuing against the Bosnian people in its ugliest pictures," King Hussein said.

"I did what I could to put an end to (the attacks on Muslims) through contact with leaders of Muslim countries who have a direct relationship with this cause," said the King.

King Hussein said Jordan might withdraw its peacekeeping forces if the situation continues to "be disastrous."

"If the world opted to move and stop the massacres, we are ready to send more troops and I am personally ready to go with them to achieve these noble objectives," he said. "But if there is no move, we will not keep our forces there."

"We have never abandoned our duty and we will not," he added. "We pray to God that we will succeed in performing our duty properly."

Jordan has 3,200 troops in former Yugoslavia as part of U.N. peacekeeping forces. Royal Jordanian is transferring goods and medicine to

(Continued on page 12)

Chirac arrives in Ivory Coast

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac arrived Friday in Yamoussoukro, political capital of the Ivory Coast, on the second leg of a five-day trip to Africa, his first as president. The French leader, who arrived at midday, was greeted by President Henri Konan Bedie and received a traditional welcome. Mr. Chirac briefly met the heads of state of Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, with whom he was to have bilateral meetings in the afternoon. Mr. Chirac's African trip is aimed at underlining France's solidarity with its former colonies on the African continent, despite what some fear is a growing international "disengagement" in the region.

12 police wounded in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Twelve riot policemen were wounded on Friday when a hand grenade was thrown at a bus carrying them through an Istanbul suburb, the Anatolian news agency said. A police spokesman confirmed the morning attack in the Gaziosmanpasa district but said details were not available. There was no word about the identity of the attackers but in recent weeks militants from a leftist urban guerrilla group killed two policemen in separate attacks in the city. The militants have strong ties in parts of Gaziosmanpasa, where last March more than a dozen people were killed during riots against police.

'SPLA releases hostages'

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has released the last two of its five hostages, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry said Friday. The two Sudanese government security officers were headed for Khartoum, a foreign ministry official said. The released hostages were aboard a U.N. plane that had earlier been sent to the Pariang area to evacuate Iralian Giuseppe Meo, who was released Tuesday.

PLO says major gaps remain in talks with Israel

Settlers block W. Bank roads, clash with police, Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Friday a first week of intensive negotiations with Israel had ended with wide gaps still separating Israelis and Palestinians, raising doubts they could reach an accord by a July 25 signing deadline.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres played down the differences, calling them a 'tugging of ropes.'

Chief Palestinian Negotiator Ahmad Korei said: "The gap on major, crucial issues remains. These include the redeployment, security arrangements and a very serious problem (water) emerged which might threaten the draft agreement as a whole."

"I think it has become difficult to meet the July 25 deadline," he said.

Israeli army redeployment away from West Bank Palestinian population centres and elections for a governing council are already one year behind schedule.

About 80 negotiators from each side on Friday concluded the first week of marathon talks at a secluded hotel in the northern Israeli town of Zichron Yaacov with little progress. They said they might meet at another venue next week.

Palestinian negotiators drew a grim picture of the talks aimed at hammering out an accord by July 25. Some described the atmosphere in Zichron Yaacov as frustrating.

"There is a lot of frustrations in the negotiations. We cannot accept redeployment in some areas and cosmetic negative changes in other places," said negotiator Hassan Agu Libdeh.

But Mr. Peres told Israel Radio: "There are little crises here, crises there. I can't tell you exactly if it will be by July 25 but there is a possibility and we'll do everything to meet it."

Palestinian officials have accused Israel of backtracking on previous positions regarding the army's withdrawal.

Israel says it is ready to withdraw from some Palestinian towns and villages, but insists on keeping control of areas close to Jewish settlements, including the town of Hebron, a flashpoint of Arab-Jewish violence.

Mr. Korei said the PLO was insisting that the Israeli army pull out from all cities, villages and refugee camps.

He said the PLO was ready to reach an agreement on special, limited and temporary security arrangements in some areas and on some roads to prevent friction and to make the interim accord a success.

Mr. Korei singled out water as a particularly contentious issue.

The Israeli position on the control over underground water resources "did not represent a basis for the negotiating process over this sensitive, dangerous and crucial issue," he said.

"We cannot envision peace without solving the water issue in a way that will guarantee the interests and

(Continued on page 12)

Iraq 'may' have destroyed missile machines

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior United Nations official said in Baghdad Friday he thought Iraq had completed the destruction of five pieces of equipment used for manufacturing missile engines.

"We are very happy that Iraq has agreed to destroy (the pieces) because that was a major issue in UNSCOM's chairman letter to the (U.N.) Security Council, "Goran Wallen, director of Iraq's ongoing monitoring and verification centre, told Reuters.

Asked whether the destruction had been completed, Mr. Wallen said: "I think it has."

A U.N. official in New York on Wednesday said he thought Iraq would destroy the equipment by the end of the week. Earlier it said it would only do so when UNSCOM ends work on its germ warfare file.

Mr. Wallen said a team of five international experts under American James Ceney were responsible for monitoring the destruction process.

The destruction of the machines was Iraq's second move last week towards complying with U.N. demands to dismantle its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes.

The chief U.N. weapons inspector, Rolf Ekeus, has said that two major stumbling blocks remain: The five pieces of machinery and Iraq's past biological weapons programme.

On Monday, Iraqi officials in Baghdad submitted a preliminary report on the biological weapons programme to U.N. monitors.

U.N. weapons monitors have said they must review the final report carefully before advising the Security Council on Iraqi compliance.

In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf threatened to end cooperation with the United Nations if the weapons inspectors do not finish their work by the end of August.

"The (U.N.) special commission should end all its work by the end of August and should then report that to the Security Council to lift the sanctions," Mr. Al Sahaf said.

"If they don't give us our rights, we will stop cooperating with them," he said.

Iraq has admitted that it produced botulism and anthrax.

But Mr. Wallen doubted the experts would meet Iraq's deadline. "The Iraqis have said they have destroyed the documents. That makes the verification process cumbersome," he added.

Palestinian police arrest 12 PFLP activists

GAZA (AP) — Police arrested a dozen activists of a radical Palestinian group early Friday in connection with the slayings of two Israeli teenagers, members of the group said.

Younis Al Jarou, a senior leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the Gaza Strip, said the activists were arrested in Gaza city and nearby towns.

Mr. Al Jarou expressed surprise that activists in the Gaza Strip were targeted since the killings of Ohad Bachrach, 18, and Ori Shebor, 19, on Tuesday took place in the occupied West Bank. An anonymous caller to the Associated Press claimed that the killings were the work of the PFLP, but the claim has not been verified.

"I cannot confirm or deny that the PFLP has done it," Mr. Al Jarou said Friday. "But I can confirm that the PFLP in Gaza had nothing to do with it."

OIC demands lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia

GENEVA (AFP) — Leaders from the Muslim "contact group" on Bosnia called for a tougher U.N. mandate and reiterated calls to lift the Bosnian arms embargo, at a meeting here Friday.

"Today the question is not whether we should terminate the (U.N.) mandate but to reinforce it and to give it additional means," said Secretary General Hamid Algabid of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), who described the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mandate as "ill-defined."

"More than ever before the offer made by the troop-contributing countries to reinforce UNPROFOR needs to be seriously considered," said Mr. Algabid, who called for "the total lifting of the arms embargo."

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohamed Saeirbey said, "(The) embargo is illegal... I don't understand why the burden is on Bosnia to show (why)."

"It allows the Serbs to continue their aggression," he said. "We have signed many documents but the other side has always chosen the military option.

"Pieces of paper don't seem to impress them. What we must have is peace in one hand and a gun in the other hand and allow them to choose.

"We think UNPROFOR framework is no longer appropriate," he continued.

The Muslim "contact group" on Bosnia convened an emergency meeting here after Bosnian Serb forces overran the eastern enclave of Srebrenica some 10 days ago, causing about 29,500 Bosnian Muslims to flee, according to Bosnian officials.

They intended to urge the international community to lift the arms embargo to allow the Bosnian government to defend itself, OIC Secretary General Algabid said in Dubai Thursday.

Muslim countries are still ready to get involved in settling the Bosnian conflict but wanted to act together, Mr. Algabid said. He added that the OIC was "ready to reinforce" its contribution to UNPROFOR.

OIC countries with troops in Bosnia are Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey.

The meeting, which had originally been scheduled for Saturday, coincided with a meeting in London of Western powers seeking to halt the advance of Bosnian Serb forces.

U.S. senate passes bill allowing for write-off of Kingdom's debts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States Friday moved closer towards fulfilling its pledge to write off all of Jordan's official debt after the U.S. Senate cleared with a 90-7 majority a bill that would allow the U.S. administration to cancel the last two remaining tranches of the Kingdom's debt.

The bill, known as the Rescissions Bill, contains a $275 million allocation which will technically allow the U.S. administration to write off the remainder of Jordan's debt to the U.S., approximately $488 million.

The next step is for U.S. President Bill Clinton to sign the legislation into law now that it has passed both chambers. The House of Representatives passed the bill on June 30.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told reporters he hoped Mr. Clinton will sign the bill into law next week.

The passage of the bill will take off the rest of the debt Jordan owes to the United States, according to Rania Atallah, the director of the Jordan Information Bureau (JIB) in Washington. The first tranche of debt relief for Jordan was approved by the then Democratic-controlled Congress in August 1994, shortly after the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel. After the presidential approval of the rescissions package, the U.S. would have written off a total of $704 million of the Kingdom's debts. Ms. Atallah explained that commercial and certain military debts owed by Jordan to the U.S. are not eligible for debt relief under U.S. parameters.

In February 1995, the Clinton administration requested Congress to combine the two remaining tranches, $488 million, so that the amount will be cancelled in one go instead of two in fiscal 1995 and 1996.

But differences between Democrats and Republicans on purely domestic issues considerably delayed the bill, which cuts $16 billion from the federal budget and also includes relief funds for the states of California and Oklahoma.

The latest controversy, triggered by Senator Paul Wellstone, Democrat from Minnesota, over his insistence on including funds for low-cost energy for his district, delayed the bill for more than two weeks.

No controversy over Jordan's debt surfaced during the congressional debate of the bill.

The liberal Democrat delayed the bill despite the Clinton administration's clear desire to have the legislation approved.

The Embassy of the State of Israel in Amman wishes to inform the public that the phone numbers of the Embassy are as follows:

The Consular Sction (for information) - 698548

The Embassy - 698541, 698542, 698543

Fax: 698571

Embassy of Israel

Amman

Chirac ends Morocco visit

Moroccan King renews bid for EU membership

RABAT (R) — French President Jacques Chirac ended a visit to Morocco Friday and flew to Ivory Coast on the second leg of a tour of former French colonies in Africa, officials said.

Mr. Chirac made no statements to the press at Rabat airport. The visit to Morocco, where he was given royal treatment by King Hassan, a long-time friend and ally, was Mr. Chirac's first official visit abroad since his election as president in May.

Morocco's King Hassan said Thursday he would renew Morocco"s application to join the European Union (EU) as a full member and asked Mr. Chirac to back the proposal.

"In 1984, we applied to become full members of the European Community... we reiterate our request in your presence, Mr. President and dear friend, because we are convinced of your understanding and your ability to find appropriate ways for our admission," King Hassan said in a televised speech at a banquet in Mr. Chirac's honour.

Morocco's application for membership in what was then the European Community was turned down in 1984, at a time when France held the rotating presidency.

King Hassan's revelation came as a surprise in view of Morocco's recent decision to begin talks Monday on an association accord with the EU. The so-called EU-Mediterranean Accord does not include provision for eventual membership.

King Hassan said in Arabic that Morocco's application was based on strategic, geographic and socio-political considerations.

Morocco considers France, its biggest trading partner and historical ally, as its window on Europe.

Mr. Chirac said in his banquet speech that Morocco could rely on French backing in the forthcoming association talks in Brussels.

"When it comes to affirming your country's political, economic and social stability now that you have chosen to anchor yourself to Europe, you can count on me," Mr. Chirac told the Moroccan King.

King Hassan, in his speech, said Moroccan-EU relations were going through "a particularly difficult period," a reference to deadlocked talks on a fishing accord with the EU that has soured relations between Spain and Morocco.

Although he did not name Spain, which had the lion's share of Moroccan lincences granted to the EU fleet under a lapsed agreement, the king said some EU members were insensitive to Morocco's needs.

"Unfortunately, some elements of the other party are fanatically opposed to the realities of geographic proximity and our vision of economic and social integration," the king said.

King Hassan II did the unthinkable Thursday when he hosted the state banquet for his close friend Jacques Chirac of France. He forgot his guest's name.

And what was worse, he invited his guests to toast President Francois Mitterrand, the former French leader who will not go down in history as a friend of Morocco.

"I ask you to stand up and honour our dear friend, the President of France, Jacques Mitterrand," King Hassan said in a live broadcast.

Mr. Chirac and King Hassan have been friends for 20 years.

With his son, Sidi Mohammad (centre), watching, King Hassan II of Morocco (left) presents French President Jacques Chirac with the Great Collar of Quissam Mohammadi, at the Royal Palace in Rabat, on the second day of Mr. Chirac's two-day stop in Morocco during his five-day trip in Africa (AFP photo)

Mubarak skirts round possible appointment of vice president

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in an interview published Friday, declined to commit himself on whether he would appoint a vice president to succeed him.

The question of the succession and the absence of any obvious candidate arose with urgency when muslim militant gunmen tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26.

"This is a subject which comes up for time to time," Mr. Mubarak told the government newspaper Al Ahram.

"A few days ago I said the constitution is the guarantee of the country's stability... and the constitution distinguishes between two things — the transfer of power and the possiblity of appointing one or more vice presidents," he added.

Under the constitution, the speaker of parliament takes over for 60 days on the death of a president and arranges for parliament to nominate a replacement. It gives no guidance on how parliament might do this.

In practice, at least in the last two cases, the incumbent vice president — Anwar Sadat in 1970 and Mubarak in 1981 — has been able to assert his claims without serious competition.

U.K. soldiers on trial for Cyprus murder

LARNACA, Cyprus (Agencies) — The wristmatch of a Danish tour guide was still ticking when her battered corpse was found in a shallow grave in a Cyprus village, a court heard no Friday.

The court, trying three British soldiers for the killing, was shown video tapes of the search and discovery of the corpse of 23-year-old Louise Jensen last September.

Defendants Alan Ford, 26, of Birmingham, Justin Fowler, 27, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Jeff Pernell, 23, of Oldbury, all serving with the Royal Green Jackets at British army base on the Mediterranean island, pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of manslaughter, abduction and conspiracy to rape.

They are alleged to have bludgeoned Jensen to death with a shovel after a drinking bout in the holiday resort of Ayia Napa on Sept. 13.

The courtroom was silent as police showed on a small television set gruesome scenes from the discovery of her body two days later.

Villagers at Paralimni, five kilometres from the Ayia Napa petrol station where the soldiers allegedly bundled her in their buggy, had found the corpse in a makeshift grave.

The video showed Jensen's green watch, on her left wrist protruding from the earth, still ticking. A silver ring glistened in the sun, a stark contrast to her black and swollen fingers.

All three soldiers, who sat opposite the television set, showed little sign of emotion. they looked impassively at shots of Jensen's legs and stomach sticking out from the red mud and state pathologist Marios Maisakis gently clearing the dirt from her body, with a towel.

Ford flinched during a close-up of her face, distorted by blows and decomposition. Her soiled and bloodied jeans were also shown next to the body together with her black boots.

Another tape showed footage of Fowler's yellow minimoke, allegedly used in Jensen's abduction. Drops of blood were visible on the bodywork, on the seats and on a towel.

Miss Jensen was kidnapped just before midnight on Sept. 12 as she was being driven home on the motorbike of her Cypriot boyfriend, said the prosecutors Monday, the day the trial opened.

The boyfriend, Michael Vassiliades, reported the kidnapping to police, and they arrested the three Britons at a roadblock 90 minutes later, with bloodstains on their civilian clothes, on the car seats and on a shovel.

Palestinian undercover police chief says he is ready to take over

JERICHO, West Bank (AP) — Outside the headquarters of PLO security in the West Bank, half a dozen young men with Kalashnikov automatic rifles slung across their shoulders lounge in the oppressive desert heat.

Inside, in an office with carpeted walls, gray satin curtains and fake leather couches — the only air-conditioned room in the building — Jibril Rajoub holds court.

Mr. Rajoub, 42, spent 17 years in Israeli prisons for attacks on soldiers. Now, as the West Bank's de facto security chief, he commands the undercover police officers who along with a uniformed Palestinian force will take over law enforcement from departing Israeli troops.

If his crucial role in assuring the success of the Palestinian autonomy experiment worries Mr. Rajoub, he does not show it.

"We'll be ready," Mr. Rajoub, a heavyset, balding man with a black mustache and an abrupt manner, said in an interview. "There will be no vacuum."

After returning last summer from six years of exile in Tunisia, Mr. Rajoub spread agents throughout the West Bank, even though his official jurisdiction is limited to the Jericho enclave — the only part of the West Bank under PLO control.

Hundreds of his armed undercover enforces are stationed in West Bank towns, chasing drug dealers, interrogating suspected informers and settling private disputes.

"Our officers are already everywhere... every city and camp and town in the West Bank," he said proudly.

Mr. Rajoub's activities have won him respect from some quarters — fear, resentment and accusations of abuse from others.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat once accused Mr. Rajoub of overstepping his authority and trying to set up a mini-state. Israeli police have arrested some of his agents for operating in East Jerusalem.

"In Jericho, his agents drive at high speeds through quiet neighbourhood streets filled with playing children.

Mr. Rajoub denies allegations by Israeli security sources that his men may have been involved in killing several suspected Palestinian collaborators.

Mr. Rajoub acknowledged that his men need "rehabilitation" to transform them from the stone-throwers and street fighters of the Palestinian uprising into a professional police force.

For this purpose, Mr. Rajoub has set up a police academy next to his headquarters in the Aqabat Jaber refugee camp on the outskirts of Jericho.

Just after dawn, groups of trainees are often seen jogging through the camp in sweat suits, chanting nationalist slogans such as "Long Live The People" to keep in step.

Aspiring agents go through a six-week training course on basics such as breaking up fights and making arrests. A two-year officer's course is planned.

Perhaps unexpectedly for a man with Mr. Rajoub's tough reputation, trainees also attend lectures on democracy and human rights. The Israel-Palestine centre for Research and Information helped design the curriculum.

"We are trying to teach them the importance of abiding by the laws — that nobody is above the law," said the centre's Zakaria Al Quaq.

Many trainees spent years in Israeli jails and have firsthand knowledge of human rights abuses, Al Quaq said. "It touches them very sincerely and close to their hearts," he said.

Mr. Rajoub insists the West Bank will be different from Gaza, where human rights groups have criticised Mr. Arafat for setting up secret military tribunals that have tried more than a dozen Islamic militants opposed to the peace process.

Armed opposition to the PLO autonomy government will not be tolerated, but no one will be arrested for political reasons, Mr. Rajoub said.

"When these guys came a year ago they were the walking wonders of the Palestinians," said Yoni Ben Menachem, a reporter who covers the West Bank for Israel Radio. Now, Ben Menachem said it appears that Mr. Rajoub's men terrorise the public they are supposed to protect.

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian human rights monitor, said abuses by Mr. Rajoub's men appear to be decreasing.

"At the beginning they had a very rough time, because they recruited people who weren't trained and had to improvise," she said. The force has been responsive when her group has pointed out problems and suggested reforms, she said.

Sudan carrying out genocide of Nuba — rights report

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudan's military-led government is carrying out genocide of the Nuba people, but the international community has been "almost completely silent" about it, the London-based monitoring group African Rights said in a report.

"There is a moral imperative on all who are concerned with basic human rights to prevent this crime from being perpetrated," the rights watchdog said. It added: "To the government in Khartoum, the Nuba are an anomaly: A people proud of their 'African-ness' in the heart of northern Sudan."

Since 1983, African animists and Christians of the south have been fighting a guerrilla war against the predominantly Muslim and Arab north. The Nuba, comprising more than 50 tribes speaking as many languages, live in the undulating country of southern Kordofan and are either Christian or Muslim.

Exposed to what the report termed "blatant racial discrimination," young Nuba joined the southern rebellion in the mid 1980s, sparking off severe repression by the authorities.

African Rights said the military government of President Omar Al Bashir who seized power in 1989 had "escalated this into a war of annihilation." It said the Sudan government "is committing genocide by attrition: It is slowly and methodically grinding down the society and economy of the Nuba to a point where they simply do not exist."

Meanwhile in garrison towns, peace camps and mechanised farming schemes, the government was "remoulding the political and social identity of the Nuba by force," the report said. The aim was "to transform them into a deracinated underclass, the loyal servants of an extremist Islamic state."

The "peace camps" are where distribution of humanitarian aid is controlled by the authorities for political purposes.

In army sweeps, villages were torched and crops destroyed "to create permanent famine, so that the SPLA soldiers surrender or run away, and the villagers submit themselves to the government 'peace camps', hoping at least to be fed," the report said. The SPLA is the guerrilla movement Sudan People's Liberation Army led by John Garang.

The soldiers raped women, carried out summary executions, and arrested or killed men, women and children, African Rights went on.

"Anyone with an education is liable to be arrested and tortured, executed or 'disappeared'," it said. The government furthermore had "a policy of raping all Nuba women and girls who are abducted. It is an instrument of genocide."

Dozens of churches had been burned, many priests and catechists killed, and Christians in the peace camps were routinely forced to convert to Islam.

"What is more shocking is that the Sudan government is also desecrating mosques," the report disclosed. "It is burning them and destroying copies of the Koran, as commanded by a Fatwa (religious decree) issued in 1992 by pro-government imams, which decreed: 'An insurgent who was previously a Muslim is now an apostate.'"

The report concluded, "the desecration of mosques in the Nuba Mountains confirms the depths of the government's hypocrisy and its cynical abuse of religion in pursuit of power."

Meanwhile aid workers in Uganda said, increasing refugee problems in crisis spots in east and central Africa have diverted attention from the worsening plight of thousands of Sudanese refugees living in makeshift camps in northern Uganda.

The workers told the AFP reporter, who visited the overcrowded transit camp at Ogujabe between July 6 and 11, that decreasing food supplies to the families in these camps was already causing severe malnutrition and increasing deaths among children.

Malnourished children were everywhere in the camp, situated in the northwestern Moyo district, some 500 kilometres (300 miles) from the capital Kampala, with adult refugees sometimes becoming rowdy and threatening violence against U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials.

At Ogujabe Health Centre, mothers were sitting with pale, emaciated children on their laps, receiving instructions on feeding their dying offspring with the little food available. The centre records 20 deaths per week from malnutrition, aid officials said.

An aid worker with the Swiss branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders) who requested anonymity said that whenever they asked UNHCR for more food, they were told the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) had not delivered any further supplies.

The WFP country director in Uganda, Tesema Negash, attributed the food shortage to donors' inability to give more, with the agency under increasing pressure from other refugee problems in the region.

The debacle was confirmed during a visit by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to Uganda last week, when he told reporters that the United Nations was unable to cope with all humanitarian problems, with some 20 crises worldwide.

"The budget required to cope with these new tasks had risen from about $500 million to over $3 billion per year," Dr. Ghali said. "We are overloaded. We are not able to mobilise the required money."

The Ugandan government recently did what UNHCR resident representative Ulf Kristoffersson said was "unbelievable" when it allocated about a hectare (2-½ acres) of land to each refugee family to enable them to grow food and be self-sufficient.

Some 6,500 refugees have been resettled at Palorinya Refugee Settlement Camp, where about 1,650 families have started tilling the land and some have even started planting maize and ground-nuts.

Local residents have also offered some of their land to the refugees, to reciprocate hospitality they were accorded when they were themselves refugees across the border in Sudan before peace returned in 1986, and they were repatriated back to Uganda.

TV: Israelis killed 35 Egyptian PoWs in 1956

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television, quoting an official army document to be published in Israel's Davar newspaper, said Thursday Israeli troops killed 35 Egyptian prisoners of war during the 1956 Suez campaign.

It said paratroop Battalion 890, then commanded by Rafael Eitan, who is now a member of parliament and head of the right-wing Tsomet Party, killed the prisoners because it was isolated far behind enemy lines and feared Egyptian air strikes.

Mr. Eitan, who has put himself forward as a candidate for prime minister in 1996 elections, was not available for comment.

Israel's state-run Channel 1 television said the document, the first of its kind ever released by the army's history division, would be published in Davar Friday.

The army said it would check the report Friday.

The television's security analyst, Amir Oren, said Mr. Eitan reported the killings during an investigation two weeks after the war.

The analyst said the incident took place a day before the Israeli force lost 38 men in the battle for the Mitla Pass. He said no action was apparently taken against those involved, pointing out Mr. Eitan served years later as army chief-of-staff.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 ..... Back to the Future
14:30 .. Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 ..... Road to Avonlea
16:00 ..... Families
17:00
Children's programme — Spirou
17:30 ..... L'Ecole Des Fans
18:00
Drama — Place En Gadre A Vue
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
19:30 ..... New Headlines
19:35 ..... First Flights
20:00 ..... Major Dad
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Dr. Quim-Medicine Woman
22:00 ..... News in English
22:25 ... Film — Shadow Chasers

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 ..... Fajr
05:39 ..... *(Sunrise) Duha*
12:42 ..... Dhuhr
16:23 ..... 'Asr
19:45 ..... Maghreb
21:16 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 638851. Tel 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	20 / 32
Aqaba	25 / 39
Deserts	19/ 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 663412
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 699440
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 898140
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Ascna pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Khalili 273099
Alquds pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988075
Khalileh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 597367
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0110230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623111
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-532081
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-532081

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777111/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 601224/050
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)984560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990890
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247110
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 ..... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)
09:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)
10:30 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 ..... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
19:30 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)
20:50 ..... Vienna (RJ)
03:00 ..... Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 ..... Vienna (OS)
11:10 ..... Damascus (AZ)
13:40 ..... Sharjah, Doha (GF)
15:10 ..... Rome (AZ)
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)
21:40 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:20 ..... Larnaca (CY)
23:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
00:30 ..... London, Damascus (BA)
03:35 ..... Antalya (TK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)
08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
11:55 ..... Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:55 ..... Paris (RJ)
13:00 .. Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:15 ..... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
13:55 ..... London (RJ)
21:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:15 ..... Dhahran (RJ)
21:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
03:00 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)
12:10 ..... Rome (AZ)
13:40 ..... Vienna (OS)
14:30 ..... Bahrain (GF)
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)
23:20 ..... Larnaca (CY)
23:59 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
01:50 ..... London (BA)
04:35 ..... Antalya (TK)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8.00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5.00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/ 500
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammat)	620
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	220/140
Cauliflower	350/ 250
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 90
Cucumbers (small)	230 / 150
Eggplant	170/ 100
Garlic	700/500
Grapes	430/330
Lemon	600 / 400
Marrow (large)	140 / 90
Marrow (small)	230 / 140
Molokhia	120 / 80
Okra	780 / 600
Onion (dry)	170/ 100
Orange	350/250
Peaches	640/400
Pepper (hot)	220 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 100
Potato	330/ 220
String Beans	300 / 200
Sweet Melon	240 / 180
Tomato	100/50
Water Melon	100 / 50

Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday greets recipients of the Malcom H. Kerr High School Scholarship Programme at Al Ma'wa Palace (photo by Crystal)

Queen meets visiting President of Together for Peace Foundation to discuss concerns over Bosnia crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday received the President of the Together for Peace Foundation and the National Women's Committee of the Italian Red Cross and former Vice-President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Mariposa Fanfani to discuss their shared humanitarian concerns for the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as ways to open up corridors for relief aid and to mobilise international action to halt the aggression, according to a Royal Court statement.

Queen Noor expressed her deep appreciation for Ms. Fanfani's dedicated efforts to supply relief aid to the Bosnian Muslims and reiterated her thanks for Ms. Fanfani's unforgettable support of Jordan during the Gulf crisis, the statement said.

American students visit

Afterwards, Queen Noor met with the 10 recipients of the Malcom H. Kerr High School Scholarship Programme in Arab and Islamic Studies at Al Ma'wa Palace.

According to the statement, the American students, accompanied by their escort, Dr. Ronald Stockton, are part of the eleventh Petra Summer Programme sponsored by the Arab Cultural Association in Amman and the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations in Washington, D.C.

Queen Noor, who meets annually with the programme participants, said she hoped that these projects will broaden American understanding and knowledge of U.S.-Arab relations.

During their two-week stay in Jordan the students visited the country's archaeological and cultural sites, toured model farms and attended various lectures and conferences that focused on national and regional problems among which is water shortage, the statement said.

The Malcom H. Kerr High School Scholarship Programme, which was established by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations in 1984, provides young Americans with first-hand exposure to U.S.-Arab issues of vital concern.

Its namesake, the late Dr. Kerr, was the President of the American University of Beirut and an outstanding scholar.

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, founded in 1983, is an American non-profit educational institution dedicated to familiarising Americans about the Arab World, the statement added.

Philadelphia University graduates first class

Later, Queen Noor attended the first graduation ceremony of Philadelphia University where she distributed diplomas to 63 graduates and presented awards to 6 honour students.

Dr. Ihsan Abbas, a foremost critic and writer in the Arab World, was also presented with an award.

Each year Philadelphia University plans to honour one person who has significantly contributed to Jordan and the Arab World, the statement said.

In his speech, President of Philadelphia University Dr. Fouad Sheikh Salem outlined the university's plan to diversify its educational curriculum to meet the future needs of the local and regional job markets.

Queen Noor praised the university for offering its students a wide range of extracurricular activities that include scientific, academic, and recreational clubs and expressed hope that it will become a regional educational centre for the Arab World, the statement said.

Philadelphia University, established in 1991, is a private institute of higher education with 1,540 students from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar, Sudan, Bahrain and Malaysia.

Its educational curriculum includes engineering, pharmacy, basic sciences, law, computer sciences, economics, business administration, finance, banking, English and translation.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, was received by Senator Leila Sharaf and other members of the university's Board of Trustees.

Symposium reviews role of King Abdullah in nation-building

Amman (Petra) — Deputising for Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Youth Samir Habashneh Thursday opened a one-day symposium to mark the 44th anniversary of the death of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who was assassinated at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Addressing the opening session of the seminar, which was intended to shed light on the political, military, intellectual, and cultural life of the late founder of the Kingdom, Mr Habashneh said King Abdullah was a thinker, politician and a statesman who not only believed in democracy but also endeavoured to implement its principles in the nascent state.

Mr. Habashneh said that the current democratic march, the state of law and the process of modern institution-building are all extensions of King Abdullah goals.

He said that Jordan, during King Abdullah's rule, was a founding member of the League of Arab States, and has played an active role in seeking the liberation of Palestine and ensuring Arab unity.

It was for these reasons that King Abdullah based Jordan's independence on clear pan-Arab principles, Mr. Habashneh said.

Following the opening ceremony, participants, mainly historians, politicians, intellectuals and thinkers, debated two working papers presented by Jordanian historians Suleiman Mousa and Suleiman Nuseirat.

The first paper discussed King Abdullah's political role in the Great Arab Revolt; the second reviewd his military role in the the revolt against foreign domination.

The second session dealt with two working papers presented by Ibrahim Izzeddin and Yousef Ghawanmeh.

The first paper addressed the establishment of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan; the second dealt King Abdullah's role in gaining independence for Jordan and in the building of the state.

The late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, accompanied by the late Prime Minister Samir Rifai, observes a military exercise during a visit to Egypt

A SHOW OF SUPPORT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday visits Bosnian families living in Amman. Prince Hassan expressed solidarity with the Bosnian people and called on the United Nations and the United States to end the ethnic cleansing campaign carried out by the Serbians against the Bosnian nation. The Crown Prince warned that the aggression on Bosnia could extend to other parts of Europe. In his appeal for intervention by the United Nations and major world powers, Prince Hassan said that the prolonged suffering of a people creates different forms of extremism which, in turn, causes further ethnic and sectarian conflicts

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Israel to negotiate release of detainees

Amman (Petra)— Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Thursday said that Jordan's ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, is following up on status of Jordanian detainees in Israeli jails, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Rai. In a statement to Al Quds Press, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan will hold negotiations with Israel to secure the release of the largest possible number of those detainees. He said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) maintains a list of the names of Jordanians jailed in Israel. But Jordan has not yet received the final list of names.

Arafat briefs Jordanian envoy in Gaza

Gaza (Petra) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Thursday briefed Ziad Majali, head of the Jordanian representation office here, on the latest developments on the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations and ootcome of the Alexandria meeting between senior Palestinian and Israeli officials.

RJ leases new Airbus

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has leased a new Airbus aircraft, bringing to 18 the total number of planes in the RJ fleet.. The new aircraft, which can seat 330 passengers, will be used on Amman-Europe flights after a paint job and maintenance at the RJ maintenance facilities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

* Concert by Latifa Al Tunisiyah of Tunis at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Poetry recital for children by Qamar Al Safadi at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

* Play for children entitled "Birds Talk to Humans" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

*Poetry recital by Suleiman Al Issa, Farouq Shousha, Dr. Alawi Al Hashimi, Ibrahim Nassrallah, Khalid Mahadin, and Suleiman Oweiss at Artemis Steps, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

*Performance by Nazareth Group of Popular Dancing at Artemis Steps at 9:00 p.m.

* Performance by Amman University Group at the Sound and Light Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Concert by Zdravetz Folklore Group of Bulgaria at the Forum at 9:00 p.m.

*"Street Show" by The Chipolatas at The Forum at 9:30 p.m.

* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.).

LECTURE

* Lecture entitled "The Peace Process...WhereTo?" by Faisal Husseini at the Presidency Building of the University of Jordan at 12:00 noon.

* Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Globe and Environmental Dangers" by Dr. Sufyan Tal at Adul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

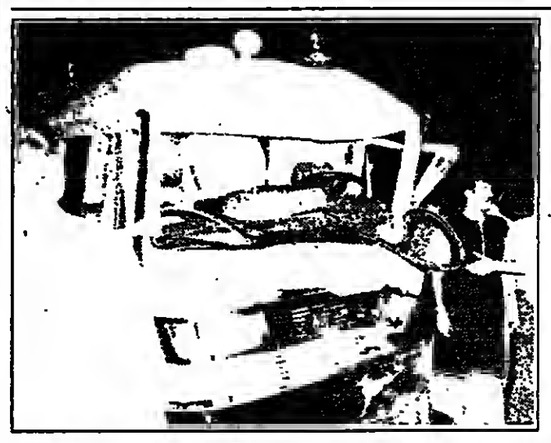
EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings and ceramics of Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Exhibition in honour of Palestinian intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.



Witness view the wreckage of an ambulance (left) and a passenger car that collided Thursday on the University Road in Amman (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Collision on University Road injures 8

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eight people were injured in a road accident just opposite the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspaper offices on University of Road Thursday evening.

Four of those involved remain in hospital under treatment; the other four victims were discharged shortly after receiving first aid, according to Jordan University Hospital sources Friday.

The accident involved an ambulance heading towards the University Hospital from Amman and a car heading in the opposite direction.

According to eyewitnesses from Al Ra'i newspaper, the driver of the car was trying to avoid four children who were crossing the road at the time.

The driver abruptly slammed on his brakes and the car crossed over the highway divider into the oncoming traffic and collided with the ambulance.

The drivers of both vehicles and a 13-year-old boy were among the injured, according to the report.

In another incident, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said in a statement that a team of divers pulled out the body of 23-year-old Hikmat Ahmad Mohammad Abu Abed from the reservoir of the King Talal Dam Thursday.

Relatives of the deceased had earlier reported his disappearance in the vicinity of the dam.

Also according to the CDD, an Iraqi citizen was killed when a bulldozer he was driving overturned and plunged down a steep hill in the stone quarry district in Ma'in, south of Madaba.

The CDD said that the victim was identified as Hajouj Manthour.

Gonzalez under new pressure to quit over death squad row

MADRID (AFP) — Premier Felipe Gonzalez, bowing to fierce pressure, said Friday he would appear before parliament next week to answer allegations linking him to death squads that targeted suspected Basque separatists.

But the premier, who was facing new demands to resign and convene early elections, said he would not make any change in a timetable which now calls for general elections in the spring of 1996.

They had been scheduled for 1997, but Mr. Gonzalez said last week he would move them up following an uproar over a telephone bugging scandal involving the secret service.

The premier said only that he decided to go before parliament after recognising the extent of "public concern" over the allegations made against him Thursday by former Socialist Party stalwart Ricardo Garcia Damborenea.

He said the session would take place "in the middle of next week" out gave no date.

Mr. Gonzalez, who spoke after a cabinet meeting, again denied Mr. Damborenea's allegations as "false". He said he had asked the state general prosecutor to take action against his accuser, a former Socialist Party head in the Basque city of Bilbao who is facing trial in the death squad probe.

Mr. Damborenea was the first witness to directly implicate Mr. Gonzalez in the creation of the death squads and his allegations raised criticism to a new pitch against a government already damaged by corruption scandals.

Though Mr. Gonzalez was said to have opposed any appearance before parliament — for which the opposition was pushing, party leaders apparently overrode his objections as the only way to limit fall-out over the scandal.

The death squads, otherwise known as the anti-terrorist liberation groups or GAL, have been blamed for killing at least 22 separatists in Spain's alleged dirty war against the Basque separatist organisation ETA in the mid 1980s.

The government of Mr. Gonzalez, prime minister since 1982, has always denied any involved in GAL's creation and Mr. Gonzalez said earlier this week his own "conscience was clear".

But Mr. Damborenea told a press conference Thurday that GAL was created as a "political strategy decided by political officials," including Mr. Gonzalez and the interior and defence ministers at the time.

A Socialist Party statement Friday denied "that there was any strategy to create or encourage activities of GAL" and suggested — in a clear reference to the rightwing opposition Popular Party — that "certain political leaders were motivated for electoral reasons to give credibility to such serious accusations."

Mr. Damborenea was forced out of the Socialist Party in 1990 and is now close to the Popular Party, even going on the campaign trail for the group in the Basque country during the last elections in 1993 where he was known for his tough anti-ETA stance.

Mr. Damborenea was arrested last February, after investigators reopened the GAL case when two former police jailed for involvement implicated superiors. He was released on bail on charges of kidnapping and attempted murder of one of the alleged GAL victims.

His allegations mark the first time a suspect in the GAL probe has so directly implicated Mr. Gonzalez. "He knew of it because I talked to him about it several times," Mr. Damorenea said after appearing before an investigating judge.

But he bas not tried to pass off blame, saying he himself took part in the formation of GAL and "regrets nothing because that is what had to be done."

The respected Socialist daily El Pais Friday said the "lack of proof can, of conrse, rule out any criminal responsibility of the executive (in the GAL case) but can in no way rule out a political responsibility."

"There can be no grace for those who dragged the state through the mud, who played with democracy... and who fed ETA terrorism with an anti-terrorism just as criminal," it said.

The daily El Mundo went further, demanding the courts take action over Mr. Damborenea's allegations.

Americans dissatisfied with Clinton

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Most Americans are dissatisfied with President Bill Clinton's performance but are also disillusioned with opposition Republicans who make up the majority in Congress, a poll said.

The survey by Louis Harris and Associates showed that 55 per cent of Americans have a poor opinion of Mr. Clinton compared to 44 per cent who take the opposite view.

Support for Republicans was at 35 per cent, down from 42 per cent in April.

Republican Senate leader Bob Dole, the frontrunner for his party's presidential nomination, enjoyed the backing of 42 per cent of respondents compared to 45 per cent in April.

House speaker Newt Gingrich was falling out of public favour with 35 per cent of those surveyed saying they approved of his performance compared to 41 per cent three months ago.

The survey of 1,005 adults was conducted by telephone from July 13 to 16. The margin of error was about 3 per cent.

On Thursday, President Clinton expressed unwavering support for federal lawmen, slamming those who wage "war" against policemen and unleashing a thinly veiled attack on his Republican opponents.

"It is irresponsible for people in elected positions to suggest that the police are some sort of armed bureaucracy acting on private grudges and hidden agendas," Mr. Clinton said in a reference to Republican adversaries in Congress.

The president's comments come as the Republican-controlled Congress was holding an exhaustive eight days of hearings into the potentially embarrassing tragedy at Waco, Texas two years ago in which four federal agents and dozen of members of a sect were killed.

While Mr. Clinton acknowledged that law enforcement made mistakes in the Waco tragedy — now a symbol of government excess to many — he said the real villains were the Branch Davidian cult members.

"There is no moral equivalency between the disgusting acts which took place inside that compound in Waco and the efforts that law enforcement officers made to enforce the law and protect the lives of innocent people," he said.

Democrats have wasted little time seizing on the sensational turn the hearings took Wednesday, when a 14-year-old girl testified that Branch Davidian leader David Koresh sexually molested her when she was 10.

Some Republicans have been frustrated that the grapbic testimony, along with attacks on the National Rifle Association — a powerful gun lobby accused of playing an unethical role in the official hearings — have dominated the direction of the hearings so far.

"These hearings are not just about the NRA and 14-year-old girls," said New Hampshire Representative Bill Zeliff, who chairs one of the two panels investigating Waco.

The Waco tragedy began in February of 1993, when agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) stormed the compound to serve arrest warrants on alleged weapons violations.

Charlie Sheen testifies he paid $53,500 for Fleiss' prostitutes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A nervous Charlie Sheen admitted in videotaped testimony played in court Thursday that he hired Heidi Fleiss' prostitutes at least 27 times, paying them in excess of $53,500. Sheen's deposition was played after another major development in the Hollywood Madam's money laundering trial: Her younger sister reneged on an agreement and refused to testify for the prosecution. In the 70-minute videotape, Sheen identified seven checks and discussed 20 casb payments paid to prostitutes between late 1991 and mid-1993. Wiping his brow, he discussed the transactions haltingly. Asked by a prosecutor about the sixth check he wrote for sex, Sheen said, "it's starting to add up." The full courtroom, including Heidi Fleiss, laughed. Sheen also testified that the money was for "sexual services — beterosexual services." Some of the prostitutes were paid as much as $3,000. Sheen also said he hired a Fleiss prostitute on Christmas Day in 1992, paying her $2,000. Sheen testified under a limited grant of immunity.

Murayama seen holding on despite vote

TOKYO (R) — Japan's left-right coalition government is likely to carry on as a caretaker administration after Sunday's parliamentary election, which will see a record poor turnout, political analysts said Friday.

Despite the upper-house poll's billing as a referendum on the coalition government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, surveys suggest voters are more likely to go to the beach or stay away in protest from a largely issue-free contest.

"Since the upper house is constitutionally less powerful than the lower house, voter interest is typically lower," said Eiji Tominomori, communications professor at Tokai University.

Turnout for the contest to fill half the 252 seats in the upper house of parliament looks set to fall below 50 per cent, less than the all-time low of 50.7 per cent in the same elections in 1992, the Tokyo Shimbun reported Friday.

It cited its recent survey of 66,000 voters in which only 52 per cent of respondents expressed interest in the poll, the first national-level vote since a 1993 general election ended the 38-year-old rule of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Fueling the apathy are growing indications that the leaders from the coalition of Mr. Murayama's Socialist Party, the LDP and Sakigake will attempt to remain in power whatever the election results, analysts said.

"Their priority is to preserve the coalition framework," said a senior political writer at a major Japanese daily.

The Socialists, who offered symbolic opposition to the LDP for 40 years, joined hands with their foes last summer.

Mr. Murayama had been expected to face pressure to step down if his party captures less than a third of the 41 seats it has up for elections.

Political insiders have predicted he will step down if the Socialists win nine seats or fewer, and stay on if it gets 15 or more, with 10 to 14 seen as a "grey zone."

Analysts project the Socialists will capture just enough seats to fudge the question of defeat, allowing Mr. Murayama to linger on as a caretaker perhaps into next year.

The New Frontier Party, the main opposition group, may perform well Sunday but is not ready to topple the coalition, the analysts said.

This stopgap scenario has the support of the LDP, which is focusing on a potentially divisive election of a party president in September

"Sunday's contest is merely a preparatory election for coming general elections," Mr. Tominomori said.

The LDP would like to take the reins before general elections, which the prime minister can call at any time, but are not otherwise due until 1997, analysts said.

Craxi declared officially on the run

MILAN (R) — A Milan court Friday formally declared former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who has been living at his holiday villa in Tunisia for more than a year, to be officially a fugitive from justice.

In the last few weeks, Italian judges have issued two international warrants for the arrest of Mr. Craxi, 61.

He is charged with corruption and illegal financing of political parties during his time as Socialist Party leader and as prime minister from 1984 to 1987.

The first warrant related to alleged graft over the building of Milan's underground railway system.

The second was issued in connection with a probe into bribes paid to political parties in exchange for contracts from state electricity board ENEL.

One of the most prominent politicians implicated in Italy's corruption scandals, Mr. Craxi has denied all the allegations against him. He has been living in Hammamet, Tunisia, since May 1994, saying he is too ill with diabetes to travel.

U.S. university ends affirmative action

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The University of California struck a severe blow to affirmative action policies, voting to stop using race or sex as considerations in admitting students, hiring employees and signing contracts.

The final vote by the university's governing Board of Regents was taken in San Francisco after 12 hours of heated debate and despite protests and disruption by affirmative action supporters and a bomb threat.

It puts the huge university, often a leader on other issues, in the forefront of moves to end affirmative action programmes used since the 1960s to increase opportunities for women and racial minorities.

The vote, likely to have national reverberations, came just a day after president Bill Clinton endorsed the goals of affirmative action, saying they had been good for America.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who joined other black clergymen and students in disrupting the regents' meeting shortly before the final vote, pledged to resist the decision affecting the nine-campus university and its 162,000 students.

"These blows are too devastating to take lightly and not resist and fight back," he told supporters.

California Governor Pete Wilson, who has made ending affirmative action a cornerstone of his campaign for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, hailed the vote as an "historic moment. It means the beginning of the end of racial preferences," Mr. Wilson told reporters.

Mr. Wilson, a member of the Board of Regents, voted for the proposals. Asked about the threat of protests over the vote, Mr. Wilson said: "Anyone who breaks the law can look forward to being dealt with as a law-breaker. They will be prosecuted."

About 350 protesters marched off campus after the meeting. Scores of them sat down in the middle of a busy street where Rev. Jackson led them in singing "we shall not be moved." Police watched the protesters but did not arrest them.

Mr. Wilson argues affirmative action policies are no longer needed and are unfair to some. Supporters, including Rev. Jackson, say race bias still exists and the policies remain essential.

The regents first voted 15-10 to stop using race or sex as criteria for awarding contracts or miring university staff starting Jan. 1, 1996. They then voted 14-10 to stop using race or sex as a consideration in admitting students to the university starting Jan. 1, 1997.

Both resolutions were proposed by Ward Connerly, a black regent appointed by Mr. Wilson.

The new policy would allow other considerations, such as poverty, to be used in selecting students.

Supporters of affirmative action, including Rev. Jackson, disrupted the regents' meeting after the first vote and regents were forced to continue the meeting in another room without the public present.

Americans back Miss America pageant swimsuits

WASHINGTON (R) — The Miss America pageant may not know it yet, but Americans by a more than two-to-one margin want contestants to continue parading in bathing suits. Pageant officials recently announced that a telephone poll on the pageant's final night on Sept. 16 will determine if Americans want to continue the bathing suit tradition. Jumping the gun, an ABC News/Washington Post poll said that 68 per cent of adults want the swimsuit competition to continue compared to 28 per cent who did not and four per cent who did not know or did not care. If that is reflected in the pageant's telephone poll, the bathing suit competition presumably will continue as it has annually since 1921 in Atlantic City. It may be a blow to political correctness, but men favour watching the young female contestants in swimsuits by 76 to 20 per cent while women back swimsuits by 61 to 36 per cent. Under rules of the event, contestants from all states are judged on how they look in bathing suits as well as on other criteria such as talent, poise and congeniality. The poll of 1,548 adults, with a three percentage point margin of error, was conducted July 14-17. The biggest boosters of the swimsuits were white males by an overwhelming 81 per cent.

North Korea calls on U.N. to dissolve its command in South

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea has again called on U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to dissolve the United Nations Command in the South, saying its continuing presence 42 years after the end of the war is "unjustifiable," monitors said Friday.

"It is a very abnormal phenomenon, contrary to the trend of international detente," North Korean Vice Premier Kim Yong-Nam said in a letter to Dr. Ghali on July 3.

The text of the letter was carried by the North's mouthpiece Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) Friday, the eve of scheduled trip by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam to the United States where he is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the future of the Korean peninsula.

"It is possible for the U.N. to take a measure to lower the U.N. flag of the 'U.N. Forces Command' and withdraw it," the letter said, adding that in effect the U.N. Command was a euphemism for the 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in the South.

U.S. House urges tougher China policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demanding a more assertive China policy, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a Bill to require closer monitoring of China's behaviour and beam U.S. radio broadcasts to the country.

But the compromise measure steered clear of the contentious issue of China's favourable trade status.

With many lawmakers wearing yellow ribbon in honour of American human rights activist Harry Wu, under arrest in China, the House approved the China Policy Bill 416-10.

The bill now goes to the Senate. It requires the president to report every six months on diplomatic initiatives to move China on human rights, arms proliferation and other issues. It also authorises Radio Free Asia, a radio service to begin broadcasting to China within three months of the bill's final passage.

But the house turned down, 321-107, a motion to override President Bill Clinton's decision to extend most-favoured-nation trading status to China.

Simpson defence suffers tripple setbacks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpsons defence suffered triple setbacks in its effort to make a pair of bloody socks the core of its theory that Simpson was framed for murder.

— The judge blocked most testimony from an expert who conducted tests that the defence contends could prove blood was planted on socks seized from the foot of Simpson's bed.

— A police photographer called by the defence gave jurors an explanation why the socks weren't there when he videotaped Simpson's bedroom the afternoon after Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were murdered.

— And a police detective, the day's last witness, said he saw the socks about 12:40 p.m. and ordered them seized because they "appeared to be out of place." He said a criminalist collected them before the photographer videotaped Simpson's bedroom at 4:13 p.m.

Detective Bert Luper was called by the defence to tell how he went to Chicago to collect a broken drinking glass, bedding and a bloody towel from Chicago Police, corroboration for Simpson's claim that he cut his hand at his hotel, not while committing murder.

But the prosecution used the detective, who was also at Simpson's estate the day after the murders, to counter defence implications that the socks were planted after the police video was shot.

Simpson, a former football star, is charged in the killings of his ex-wife and her friend.

The testimony came on a particularly tense trial day. Superior Court Judge Lance Ito told defence attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. to sit down, apologised to jurors for being "in a bad mood" and fined chief prosecutor Marcia Clark $250 for personal attacks against others in arguments outside the jury's presence.

Ms. Clark disparaged the expertise of a proposed expert witness, accused the defence of "trial by ambush" and suggested Simpson's attorneys were trying to mislead and confuse the jury.

The fine came during a dispute over proposed testimony from an expert who will say that a lab preservative called EDTA was found on the socks and on a back gate of Ms. Simpson's condominium. That preservative is commonly added to blood stored at the police crime lab, and the defence argues its presence in evidence blood samples would prove that blood was planted.

Ms. Clark also demanded more time to prepare for testimony from Fredric Rieders, founder of National Medical Services Laboratory in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, but the defence argued she had been given enough time to prepare.

The testimony Judge Ito blocked was to have come from Herbert MacDonell, who examined blood spatters on the socks and was going to tell jurors about his results.

Judge Ito agreed with prosecutors that Mr. MacDonnell's experiment, which gauged the drying time of blood on sock fabric, was flawed because the sock materials and conditions affecting the socks in the case were not accurately recreated.

The judge severely limited any testimony that Mr. MacDonell can give, saying he may not describe the presence of blood on the sock's interior and may say only, "there's a red something there."

Defence lawyers have said Mr. MacDonell's experiments suggested blood was placed on at least one of the socks when it was lying flat, not when it had a foot inside.

Prosecutors contend Simpson dropped the socks on a bedroom rug as he hastily prepared for a trip to Chicago after murdering his ex-wife and her friend on June 12, 1994.

Simpson's lawyers filed a motion claiming the judge had "crippled" their client's defence by refusing to allow testimony about Faye Resnick. Ms. Simpson's friend and a recovering drug addict. The Defence asked Judge Ito to reconsider his ruling that Ms. Resnick's former boyfriend, Christian Reichardt, couldn't provide details about her cocaine use. His ruling scuttled defence plans to claim drug dealers mistakenly killed Ms. Simpson while aiming for Ms. Resnick.

Taiwan continues drive to rejoin U.N.

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan will continue its drive to rejoin the United Nations despite protest by China, a Foreign Ministry official said here Friday.

"What should be done must be done... the soured cross-straits relations won't stop us (from seeking U.N. readmission)," the official, whose name was withheld, was quoted by the China Times Express as saying.

But the official said Taiwan would be more careful in its approach to avoid further angering China which replaced Taiwan in the U.N. in 1971 and which has since blocked Taiwan from joining international organisations, the paper said.

Chinese Communists drove Nationalist forces to the island in 1949 in a civil war and has since claimed to be the only legitimate government of all of China.

China lashed out Thursday at Taiwan's latest bid to return to the U.N., citing a proposal by 15 nations that had asked U.N. authorities to consider the island republic's reentry request at its September General Assembly meeting.

The U.N. readmission dispute occurred amid heightened tension across the Taiwan Straits as China conducts a week-long guided-missile exercise just off Taiwan's northern tip.

Observers consider the missile exercise, which began Friday, a warning against recent attempts by Taiwan to win greater international recognition, including a "private" visit to the United States by its President Lee Teng-Hui.

"China's representation in the United Nations has been justly settled in political, legal and procedural terms," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said Thursday.

He added that Taiwan "has no qualification at all to reenter or accede to the United Nations in any form" since it is not a sovereign state.

In the past two years, Taiwan has stepped up efforts seeking overseas support for its U.N. bid, sending lobbying teams abroad and offering to set aside a $1 billion fund to help developing nations after it is accepted by the U.N.

Beijing, which claims sovereignty over Taiwan, bars those countries with which it has diplomatic ties from developing official links with Taiwan.

Meanwhile Taiwan's main opposition parties on Friday accused China of fuelling tension in the western Pacific as the People's Liberation Army was scheduled to begin the guided-missile exercise.

Shih Ming-Teh, chairman of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), also urged the United States — which switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979 — to speak out against the week-long exercise, taking place just 120 kilometres or so off Taiwan's northern tip.

Flights from Taiwan to South Korea have been rerouted and Taiwan fishermen have been forced to suspend operations, resulting in an estimated loss of 100 million Taiwan dollars ($3.8 million), officials here said.

"The military exercise has in fact blocked free sea and air transportation in the west Pacific, which violates the Taiwan Relations Act which lays emphasis on the safety of the region," Mr. Shih told reporters.

Washington "should stand up to voice its views on the missile test," Mr. Shih said before meeting B. Lynn Pascoe, director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the United States' quasi-embassy here.

In a show of confidence in Taiwan, Mr. Shih opened an account with the Taiwan Stock Exchange where the weighted price index regained 10.98 points Friday after plunging 369.2 points, or 6.8 per cent, in the previous two sessions, spooked by China's military move.

Jaw Shau-Kong, secretary-general of a minor opposition group, the New Party, condemned the missile test, saying it "forced cross-straits relations, which had improved, back to where they started."

"Peace across the Taiwan Strait is vital in both sides.... China must stop taking such steps to hurt people's feelings," he said.

Mr. Jaw said his party would hold a mass demonstration Sunday to protest the manoeuvre.

Members of the National Assembly passed resolutions voicing disapproval of the testing at the opening of its 28-day session Friday.

"The military manoeuvres have threatened security in the region, damaged the harmonious ties between the two sides and caused tremendous loss to our fishermen," said Deputy Shao Tseng-Hai from the ruling Kuomintang.

DPP deputy Tsai Ming-Hsien asked both Taipei and Beijing "to respect each other's sovereignty and strive with reason to establish peace and order in the Pacific."

Taiwan authorities have tried to ease public anxiety over the past several days.

Yeh Chin-Feng, vice chairman of the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, said "cross-straits exchanges would continue despite the event."

The investment commission approved Thursday nine mainland-bound investment projects worth a total of $75 million.

Some 20,000 Taiwan enterprises have invested a combined $13 billion in China for various projects.

Observers in Taiwan have interpreted the missile manoeuvres as a warning in Taiwan after its attempts to gain international recognition.

The missile type was not disclosed in the Chinese announcement of the test last Tuesday, but Western military attaches in Beijing speculate it could be part of a programme to modernise China's intercontinental ballistic missile arsenal.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said Thursday the planned surface-to-surface missile tests are not related to possible use of force against Taiwan.

"The launches are normal military tests, as carried out previously by China and by other countries, Mr. Shen told a news briefing.

"Only in the case of the independence of Taiwan or foreign invasion of Taiwan would we resort to force. Resorting to force has no direct linkage to the missile test," Mr. Shen said when asked under what circumstances Beijing would use missiles against Taiwan.

12-year-old develops world's largest breasts

BEIJING (AFP) — A 12-year-old Chinese girl has developed what the official Chinese media claims is the largest pair of breasts in the world. Tipping the scales at a hefty 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) each, Ting Jiafen's breasts are far heavier and larger than those of an African woman who currently occupies a slot in the Guiness Book of World Records, the Xinhua News Agency said. Ting, who lives in a village in the southwestern province of Guizhou, is currently undergoing treatment in a local hospital to reduce the size of her breasts, which stand 30 centimetres (12 inches) high and 48 cms (19.2 inches) long. "Her breasts began to grow last February, and they were as large as fists by May, getting bigger and bigger afterwards," Ting's mother said, adding that her daughter had yet to begin menstruating. According to doctors at the hospital, the girl's breasts are no different from other women's, "except for their huge size." Having diagnosed the problem as an abnormal structure of the mammary glands, the doctors have appealed to medical experts nationwide to help with Ting's condition, which is extremely painful and has forced her to drop out of school. According to her mother, Ting has a history of ill health. In 1993, she lost her ability to walk and needed calcium pills to get her back on her feet. She also suffered from temporary blindness in May and June last year, although that condition also cleared up after medical treatment.

Sheen
s he
3,500 for
prostitutes

ELES (AP) — A
arlie Sheen admi-
otaped testimony
urt Thursday that
eidi Fleiss' prosti-
t 27 times, paying
cess of $53,500.
osition was play-
other major de-
in the Hollywood
money laundering
younger sister re-
n agreement and
estify for the pro-
n the 70-minute
Sheen identified
ks and discussed
ayments paid to
between late 1991
993. Wiping his
iscussed the trans-
ingly. Asked by
about the sixth
ote for sex, Sheen
tarting to add up."
urtroom, including
s, laughed. Sheen
d that the money
exual services —
al services." Some
stitutes were paid
$3,000. Sheen also
ed a Fleiss prosti-
Christmas Day in
ing her $2,000,
ified under a
nt of immunity.

cans back
merica
nt
uits

GTON (R) — The
rica pageant ma
it yet, but Ameri-
more than two-to-
n want contestants
e parading in bath-
'ageant officials re-
ounced that a tele-
l on the pageant
on Sept. 16 ask
if Americans wan
e the bathing sui
Jumping the gun
News/Washington
aid that 68 per cen
want the swimsuit
n to continue com
8 per cent who do
ur per cent who di
or did not care
reflected in the
telephone poll, th
it competition pro
vill continue as
ully since 1921
City. It may be
olitical correctness
avour watching the
male contestants
by 76 to 20 per cent
en back swimsuits
6 per cent. Unde
he event, contes
n all states
bow they look
its as well as
ria such as talent
congeniality. The
548 adults, with
entage point mar
or, was conducted
The biggest boo
e swimsuits wer
les by an over
81 per cent

-old
ps world's
breasts

(AFP) — A 1
hinese girl has de
what the official
edia claims is the
of breasts in the
oing the scales at
kilogrammes (
ach. Ting Jiafen
far heavier and
tbose of an Afr
n who currently
slot in the Guinness
Vorld Records, the
ews Agency said.
lives in a village in
estern province
s currently under-
tment in a local
reduce the size of
, which stand 30
s (12 inches) high
ms (19.2 inches)
breasts began to
ebruary, and then
ge as fists by May
gger and bigger
Ting's mother
g that her daugh-
to begin men-
According to doc-
hospital, the girl's
no different from
en's, "except for
size." Having d
e problem as an
structure of the
lands, the doctors
led to medical ex-
wide to help with
fition, which is ex-
ainful and ha
to drop out of
ccording to her
ng has a history
In 1993, she lost
y to walk and
cium pills to get
her feet. She also
from temporary
n May and June
lthough that com
cleared up after
ement.

Russians announce breakthrough on Chechenya's status

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Russian peace negotiators announced a breakthrough Friday on the political status of Chechenya and said they expected a current round of talks with Chechen separatists to finish up at the weekend.

Referring to the breakaway republic's political status, the main stumbling block in the talks, Russian delegation member Arkady Volsky told reporters: "The question is settled."

But Mr. Volsky did not say what the agreement reached was, saying both sides had "agreed not to comment" until the details were announced at a press conference Saturday.

Mr. Volsky said the current round of talks would probably be wrapped up Sunday.

He did not rule out more discussions, explaining that the two sides had not yet gone over a block of economic questions.

Chechen delegation chief Usman Imayev, who rejoined the talks Friday after several days of illness, described them as "very businesslike" but declined further comment.

Earlier, Akhyad Idigov, the former parliament speaker in Chechenya, said the Chechens wanted the breakaway republic's status to be decided in a referendum.

But such a vote could not take place before the total withdrawal of Russian troops, be said.

It was unclear whether Mr. Idigov was expressing his personal opinion or speaking on behalf of the Chechen delegation to the talks.

The Chechen side has demanded immediate recognition of Chechenya's sovereignty, while the Russians have said the issue of Chechenya's final status should be postponed until after elections are held in the republic. They are tentatively scheduled for November.

After Thursday's session of talks, Russian delegation chief Vyacheslav Mikhailov said the negotiators had "formulated the status of Chechenya in four lines," but he did not elaborate.

Asked whether he could confirm Mr. Mikhailov's statement, Mr. Volsky simply said Friday: "actually it's six — well, it really depends how you type it with the computer."

Talks resumed Thursday after a three-day break for consultations.

The two sides have already agreed on some points of a peace settlement, including the declaration of a ceasefire monitored by joint commissions and the formation of Chechen self-defence regiments in towns and villages which would subsequently be replaced by Chechen police.

Mr. Imayev said Friday he had a list of Russian soldiers being held by the Chechens, as he arrived at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission, where the talks are being held.

He told one of the mothers of Russian soldiers who have been keeping a vigil outside the OSCE mission that if her son was on Chechen territory, "he is free, you can take him back with you."

Since the peace talks began a month ago, only a few prisoners have been exchanged by both sides as a gesture of goodwill. An organisation grouping the mothers of missing Russian soldiers estimates the number of missing troops at 900 while Russian authorities put the figure at 200.

According to various estimates, between 15,000 and 30,000 people have died since Russian troops stormed into Chechenya on Dec. 11 to quell a three-year-old secessionist movement.

Responsibility for the Chechenya crisis rests with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a parliamentary commission said Friday, according to Russian news agency ITAR-TASS.

The commission of inquiry set up by the Duma, the Russian lower chamber, presented its conclusions on the last day of the parliamentary session before the summer holidays.

It was headed up by Stanislav Govorukhin, a centrist deputy fiercely opposed to Mr. Yeltsin.

The report released to the Duma, said: "Given that no decision can be taken without the Russian president, the commission judges that the main responsibility for the crisis situation in Chechenya rests with the president."

The report added: "President Yeltsin, insofar as the constitution guarantees, has not fulfilled his duties with respect to the integrity of the Russian Federation."

Friday's text was signed by six out of 10 commission members.

They represented Vladimir Zhirinovsky's ultra-nationalist faction; the centrist Russian Democratic Party (DPR); the Agrarian Party; the Women of Russia group; the Communist Party; and a representative of the independent deputies.

Four deputies dissented from the commission's findings, including: Victor Cheinis of the Yabloko reformist group; Boris Zolotukhin of the ultra-reformist Choice of Russia; and Yuri Voevoda of the pro-government Stability group.

In the courses of its inquiries, the commission tried to find out "why Dudayev's regime (had been) quite comfortable with the Yeltsin administration for three years, and why it (had) suddenly decided to break with him at the end of three years."

The commission also noted that arms trafficking from Russia to Chechenya took place for three years and continued after the start of the Russian military intervention on Dec. 11.

Commission leader Govorukin has come out in favour of independence for Chechenya.

He said Russians would live "better than before" once rid of the criminal Chechen groups who terrorise our towns.

He proposed deputies adopt an constitutional amendment excluding Chechenya from the Russian Federation, but keeping its three northern regions — Nadterecheny, Naurski and Shchelkovski — where most of the population is Russian.

Govorukin's own son lost an arm from wounds received while shooting a film on the war.

A Russian soldier guarding ammunition supplies takes a nap in the sunshine in the destroyed Chechen capital of Grozny where the Russian-Chechen peace talks resumed (AFP)

Kremlin denies new Russian security chief named

MOSCOW (R) — Interfax News Agency said Thursday President Boris Yeltsin had appointed Colonel-General Mikhail Barsukov as Russia's new head of state security, but the Kremlin and Gen. Barsukov himself later denied the report.

"Neither the president's office nor his press office has the head of state's decree on the appointment of Colonel-General Mikhail Barsukov as director of the Federal Security Service (FSB)," Sergei Medvedev, Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary, said.

Interfax, which carried the original report, issued a second report quoting Gen. Barsukov as saying th at he also was unaware of his appointment.

Mr. Medvedev told ITAR-TASS news agency that Gen. Barsukov was very surprised by the first Interfax report.

It was not immediately clear if Gen. Barsukov would later be confirmed in office or the initial report was simply wrong.

The original report said Mr. Yeltsin had named Gen. Barsukov, who is head of security for Russian leaders, to succeed Sergei Stepashin as head of the FSB.

Gen. Stepashin was sacked in the aftermath of the Chechen hostage crisis in the southern town of Budennovsk last month.

It said Mr. Yeltsin had asked Gen. Barsukov several times over the past two years to take over as state security chief. The FSB is a successor to the old Soviet KGB, though it has much lesser powers and has no intelligence role outside Russia.

Interfax quoted Mr. Barsukov as recently criticising the leadership of the FSB, saying it was indulging too much in "political snooping instead of counter-intelligence activity."

Gen. Stepashin was dismissed by Yeltsin together with the then interior minister and the nationalities minister because of the Chechen raid on Budennovsk in which more than 120 people were killed.

Also Friday ITAR-TASS said President Yeltsin is likely to leave hospital at the beginning of next week.

"The Russian president's course of hospital treatment is nearing completion and in a few days' time he will be sent on the advice of doctors to one of the Sanatoria near Moscow," it said, quoting Mr. Medvedev.

Mr. Yeltsin has been in Moscow's Central Clinic-Hospital sine early last week, when he fell ill with a blood supply problem to his heart.

Burma's Suu Kyi works to unite party

RANGOON (R) — Ten days after being released from six years of house arrest, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is working to ensure her party is united and behind her as they renew their quest for democracy in Burma.

On Thursday, six years to the day that Ms. Suu Kyi was arrested by the military and placed under house arrest for "endangering the state," she continued meetings with fellow democracy leaders to plot their course of action.

Diplomats and opposition leaders say Ms. Suu Kyi's first priority must be to reorganise her National League for Democracy (NLD), which has suffered factions and leadership problems over the past few years, if she hopes to make any progress with the military regime.

"The party must consolidate its position. Then try and work things forward," a diplomat said. "They need to decide what they want to talk to the regime about."

Diplomats said the military had the strategic upper hand because they have had years to plan what to do after releasing Ms. Suu Kyi, while the party was taken by surprise.

The 50-year-old Nobel Peace Prize-winner has been surrounded by top members of the NLD party she co-founded since she was released on July 10.

The NLD emerged in 1988 as Burma's main opposition party, supported by millions who took to the streets in pro-democracy demonstrations that were brutally suppressed by the military with heavy loss of life.

Ms. Suu Kyi's outspoken attacks on the military's methods resulted in her July 20, 1989, arrest but the NLD swept 1990 elections anyway, winning more than 80 per cent of parliamentary seats.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) refused to honour the election results and silenced those NLD members had not already been detained with further arrests or intimidation.

Ms. Suu Kyi believes her party will be able to regroup and launch dialogue with the SLORC.

"We are a very disciplined organisation despite the fact we've been limping along due to circumstances beyond our control," Ms. Suu Kyi said.

First she must conquer opposition members' fears and suspicions of their military rulers, calling for caution while also asking for support.

"Wait with patience, have a strong will," Ms. Suu Kyi told hundreds of people gathered at her front gates this week. "Be clever and be careful not to do anything wrong."

Diplomats and opposition leaders say although Ms. Suu Kyi is urging caution and patience, the situation could again turn ugly if the military does not agree to dialogue and the opposition decides to turn to the streets and demonstrate.

"If SLORC says they won't dialogue, it could lead to another step, a period of agitation," one opposition leader said. "But agitation in a totalitarian state could lead to disaster."

A student supporter of Ms. Suu Kyi agreed.

"There could be a lot of problems or a lot of good things in this country," he said. "If it explodes this time we have to expect the worst."

Ms. Suu Kyi's picture appeared for the first time since her release from house arrest in state-run Burmese newspapers Thursday.

A picture of her participating in an official Martyrs' Day ceremony Wednesday was on the front page of all state-run Burmese-language and English-language newspapers.

The picture and caption, which mentioned her by name, marked the first time she had been named in state-run newspapers since being released from six years of house arrest last week.

On Wednesday night, pictures of Aung San Suu Kyi at the Martyrs' Day ceremony were shown on official television stations, ending nine days of a domestic news blackout following her release on July 10.

Martyrs' Day commemorates the 1947 assassination of her father, General Aung San, the country's pre-independence leader, who was killed with eight others as they prepared for the handover of power from colonial ruler Britain.

Thursday's state newspapers, considered organs of the SLORC, also published an article denouncing "traitors" who worked to create economic crisis in Burma.

"Myanmar (Burma) is now embarked on the way to economic development," said the article published in the New Light of Myanmar and the other two official papers.

"But it must not be forgotten that national traitors from within the country will continue to conspire with foreign elements to enforce an economic blockade without any regard to welfare of the 45 million Myanma massers.

"They will continue to strive to create economic crisis for Myanmar in their own interests and in order that they should gain political power."

Ms. Suu Kyi was not named in the article but she has urged foreign business executives and governments to consider political circumstances in her country very carefully before rushing in with investment and aid.

Colombo minister: Offensive will end after defeat of Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government Friday vowed to continue military operations against Tamil guerrillas until they were defeated and rejected speculation that troops would abandon territory seized from rebels.

Deputy Defence Minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte, told parliament that security forces would conclude operations in the embattled north-east only after the rebel Liberation tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were defeated.

"Security forces will conlude their operations only after defeating the terrorists according to a set plan," Mr. Ratwatte said, adding that a political solution would be the second stage of the government's plan to restore peace.

He said that thousands of troops who carried out a major military strike codenamed Leap Forward in the Jaffna peninsula would hold on to captured territory.

"We didn't launch Operation Leap Forward to return to Palaly," where the military assault was launched on the Jaffna peninsula on June 9.

Previous army advances in the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula from the Palaly base eventually saw troops returning after a day or two to their original frontlines.

"We have been consolidating in several areas and we will march forward," Mr. Ratwatte said. However he declined to give details of the next phase of the offensive because he did not want vital information "to fall into enemy hands."

Mr. ratwatte was responding to opposition demands to clarify reports that the army had pulled out of areas recently captured from the LTTE after a 12-day ground offensive in the peninsula.

The LTTE has claimed to have driven out troops from several positions held by the army but the military countered by saying it was in full control of 78 square kilometres (31 squares miles) of ground seized during the operation.

A total of 69 security personnel were killed in Operation Leap Forward, according to the military. The LTTE has admitted losing 97 fighters.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the north-east for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils, who dominate the region. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the protracted ethnic conflict in the past two decades.

Meanwhile, Muslims living in the western Sri Lankan town of Puttalam have received letters purportedly sent by Tamil military telling them to leave town or die, residents said Friday.

The photocopied letters, signed in the name of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said if the Muslims did not leave by Aug. 1, they would meet the same fate as Muslims in the eastern towns of Kattankudy and Eravur.

The tigers, fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east, massacred 140 Muslims praying in a mosque at Kattankudy in August, 1990. They killed another 122 Muslims in Eravur, north of Kattankudy, nine days later.

Residents in Kattankudy received similar letters last month telling them to leave by July 1 or be killed. The Tigers denied sending the letters.

The letter to residents in Puttalam, a coastal town 120 kilometres north of Colombo where almost 90 per cent of the population is Muslim, says the "soil of Puttalam belongs to Tamil motherland for a long period before history."

It said the Tigers needed only an hour to turn Puttalam into a "forest of dead bodies" just as it did in Kattankudy and Eravur.

Residents said the letter was the first of its kind and came as a surprise because the world-be Tiger homeland, or Eelam, was in the north and east.

"We have been here more than 100 years and don't understand why the letter has come now. We are not ready to go," a resident said, adding that the letters had arrived Thursday.

But he also said some Muslims believed the letters may have been sent by troublemakers a grudge against Muslim traders and not by the Tigers.

Deputy Telecommunications Minister M.I.A.M. Hisbullah, a Muslim Congress member of parliament, also said he did not believe it was a Tiger letter.

"The LTTE have no reason to want "Muslims to leave Puttalam," he said." In the north or east, I could understand, but not here. The people are not Too Worried."

The head of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, M.H.M. Ashraff, was visiting Puttalam Friday and was unavailable for comment.

Amnesty International has appealed to the Sri Lankan government to protect civilians as its troops prepared to resume the northern offensive to crush Tamill rebels.

The London-based human rights organisation, in a report that reached Reuters Thursday, welcomed steps taken by the government to protect people from human rights abuses, including extrajudicial executions.

"While welcoming these recent steps, Amnesty International is concerned about continuing reports of arbitrary arrests, torture including rape, disappearances and extrajudicial executions being reported in the notheast," it said.

"Amnesty International is urging the government to instruct all rellevant members of the security forces to exercise continuing vigilance, accompanied by prompt intervention and disciplinary action to check abuses."

Amnesty said it had received news of arrests of hundreds of people from the Tamil Minority in the east and in Colombo.

It said the arrests began after April 19, when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ended a truce with Colombo and the two sides resumed a 12-year ethnic war which the government says has claimed more than 50,000 lives.

Amnesty accused troops assisted by Tamil groups opposed to the LTTE of carrying out arbitrary arrests in the east.

It said the emergency regulations and Prevention of Terrorism Act, under which they were being made, gave security forces wide powers to detain and hold people incommunicado for long periods without charge or trial.

'2 kidnapped tourists hurt in Kashmir gunbattle'

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Two Western tourists being held by Muslim militants in Kashmir were wounded Friday in a gunbattle with Indian troops, the separatist group holding five Western hostages said.

Al Faran, in a handwritten statement in Urdu delivered to an international news agency in this Kashmir summer capital, did not identify which of the five abducted Westerners had allegedly been wounded.

The group, which is demanding the release of 21 imprisoned Muslim militants, failing which the hostages would be killed.

In Friday's statement, which resembled previous communiques from Al Faran, the group also dismissed as "Indian propaganda," a fax message received by an international news agency in New Delhi Friday.

"We strongly deny that we have sent any faxes to the foreign media to give news," the statement said. "At present we have contact only with local correspondents who work for foreign agencies."

The fax received in New Delhi Friday renewed a threat from the militants to kill the captives, saying the Koran sanctioned the deaths of "infidels" in free fellow Muslims.

The latest developments in the hostage crisis came as the Indian government minister accused Pakistani agents of carrying out a bombing in Jammu, the Kashmir winter capital, which left 20 people dead and 60 injured Thursday.

Hindus outraged by the bomb blast clashed with police in Jammu Friday and gave a hostile reception to Minister of State for Internal Security Rajesh Pilot, chanting anti-government and anti-Pakistan slogans, witnesses said.

Mr. Pilot told reporters in the predominantly-Hindu city of 700,000 people in southern Kashmir that "Pakistan is responsible for this blast" and promised a high-level investigation.

Indian officials said the bombing and kidnapping of five Western tourists may be linked to a campaign by hardline Muslim militant groups to disrupt an annual Hindu pilgrimage scheduled to begin on Aug. 1.

A Pakistani religious and political leader said meanwhile he was willing to try to negotiate the release of the five Westerners abducted in Kashmir, but the Indian government was opposed to using him as a mediator.

Maulana Fazalur Rehman, speaking during a private visit in New Delhi, said that as a "humanitarian" gesture he would mediate in the hostage crisis.

But, he said, a lack of response from the Indian authorities had left "practically no ground for mediation to secure the release of the five."

A violent Muslim seccessionist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim insurgents, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Indian officials denied the claim by Kashmiri militants that the two Western hostages were injures in a gunbattle between Indian troops and the guerrillas Friday.

Indian officials monitoring the talks from New Delhi between the Al Faran militants and government representatives said they were puzzled by the news of a gunbattle which the guerrillas said killed two Indian soldiers and injured one of the abductors.

Troops launch new operation as 4 killed in Karachi

KARACHI (Agencies) — Police and paramilitary forces Friday launched a new operation here to flush out militants as violence in the city claimed four more lives, officials said.

Police found two bullet-riddled bodies bearing torture marks in central Nazimabad area while snipers killed a police constable and a youth in the eastern part of the city, they said.

Earlier, security forces cordoned off central Gulbahar district where more than 100 people have died violently over the past two months.

The operation was mounted after reports that "terrorists" have moved into the densely populated neighbourhood, a security official said.

Residents said the militants had erected barricades and dug trenches to prevent troops entering the narrow lanes. But, amid sporadic gunfire, security forces managed to penetrate some areas, officials said.

No casualties were reported. Unlike previous operations in the eastern suburb of Orangi and the western industrial district of Korangi, no pitched battles, developed in the pro-Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) district, officials said.

Some suspects had been arrested in house-to-house searches, they added.

The operation follows Thursday's inconclusive peace talks between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government and the MQM, the city's opposition group that represents Mohajir migrants here. The fifth round of talks since July 11 is to resume here Monday.

The government blames the MQM for much of the violence in Karachi where more than 2,000 people have died in ethnic and political unrest over the past 18 months.

The party attributes the bloodshed to a crackdown on the MQM and alleged lack of government efforts to redress the Mohajir community's political and social grievances.

Its chief negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi, Thursday reiterated that the government should refrain from using force, saying that the onus for the killings lay on those who were responsible for maintenance of law and order in Karachi.

The Associated Press of Pakistan Friday quoted provincial Governor Kamal Azfar as saying that "meaningful progress" in the talks was possible, only after "de-escalation" of violence.

Urging the MQM to bid "farewell to arms," Mr. Azfar said 958 peole had died in Karachi in the first six months of this year, including 108 members of law-enforcement agencies.

In a separate development, Pakistan's Senate said in a report published Friday, U.S. sanctions have so eroded the country's conventional defence capability that it has no option but to speed development of a nuclear weapons programme.

The 24-page policy report by the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the government of Ms. Bhutto not to give up the nuclear programme to please the United States.

There was no immediate reaction from Ms. Bhutto.

The United States has withheld billions of dollars in annual aid and arms sales to Pakistan since 1990, when it determined that Pakistan was attempting to develop nuclear weapons. Washington also has refused to deliver 28 F-16 fighters that Pakistan has already paid for.

The Senate report, excerptrs of which were published in newspapers Friday, coincides with efforts by President Bill Clinton to ease sanctions against Pakistan, asserting it is wrong for the United States to keep both the planes and the money.

"There is no likelihood of reviving the warmth and closeness of the former alliance between Pakistan and the United States," the report states. Therefore, it adds, the government should adopt a policy of "handshake but no embrace" with Washington.

The Senate report contends the Clinton administration softened its stand only because successive administrations in Islamabad have refused to compromise on the nuclear issue.

Pakistan says it has the capacity to produce nuclear weapons but has not done so. Experts say it has enough enriched uranium to build up to 13 atom bombs.

The report criticises the United States for "discriminating" against Pakistan's nuclear programme with no regard to the proven nuclear capability of its archenemy, India.

The report says that the U.S. legislation blocking aid and arms sales had caused a serious erosion of Pakistan's conventional defence capability, leaving it with no option "except to fall back on nuclear capability as the weapon of last resort."

There were no "credible security guarantees against an Indian nuclear threat," the report said.

The report calls on the government not to sign the comprehensive test ban trea-

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Lesson from history

THE COMMEMORATION of the 44th anniversary of the assassination of King Abdullah Thursday was a fitting occasion to shed more light on the late statesman's early moves to settle the Palestinian question on terms and conditions infinitely more favourable than was possible in the 90's. Had the Arab World listened to the counsel of the founder of Jordan and acted accordingly, the Arab Nation would have been spared the miseries of the 1967 war and the occupation of the West Bank, Jerusalem, Sinai and the Golan Heights and the consequences of this occupation.

Any serious negotiator would readily concede that the Israeli occupation of so much Arab territories gave the Jewish state a trump card with which it was able to negotiate with the Arabs on terms that are more favourable to it than would have been the case had the concerned Arab countries listened to the advice of King Abdullah. This is where King Abdullah's place in Arab history will always be marked: by the missed opportunity to strike peace with Israel as far back as 1951 on better grounds. That's why the Arab World must draw the right lessons from the loss of a statesman and visionary to an assassin's bullet. That's why we in Jordan and in Palestine must endeavour to read our contemporary history with this footnote in mind.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHAT IS the use of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia now when little has been left of the Bosnian nation to be saved by new weapons that could come from now on? asked Tareq Masarweh, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. In the past years the United States has been looking on and watching the war continuing in the former Yugoslavia and doing nothing against the Serbian atrocities, said the writer. Also, European nations have been watching Serbs committing one massacre after the other and sufficing themselves with stationing U.N. peace-keeping troops who have proved unable to do anything at all to stop the war or to protect the civilians in the so-called safe havens. At the same time, Arab and Muslim nations watched Bosnian women being raped, Bosnian towns demolished and Bosnian men, women and children massacred without taking any meaningful measures to come to the help of the oppressed and embattled nation, added the writer. Apart from a number of countries sending relief supplies to the Bosnian victims of the war, very little has been done by the Organisation of Islamic Conference and Islamic state like Iran, which were timidly complaining about the deteriorating situation while others offering lip service to the Bosnian government, he added. The writer said that Arabs and Muslims who displayed little concern over the plight of the Iraqi people who face a crippling embargo are not expected to show any solidarity with or sympathy for the Bosnian population.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i paid tribute to the Hashemite Association, which organised a meeting between Arab-Israeli businessmen and their colleagues in Jordan. Sultan Al Hattab said the Palestinian businessmen who have lived the past 50 years isolated from their Jordanian kinsmen are true in their endeavour to launch cooperation with Jordan in economic and trade fields and to build bridges of understanding with the Jordanian people. Their quest received a favourable response from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Jordanian officials and businessmen. But, said the writer, the Jordanian businessmen have yet to decide their own step and define their position clearly with regard to whether the economic cooperation will be directly exercised between the Palestinian Arabs and Jordan, benefitting both sides or will such practice serve as a conduit for Israeli entrance into the Arab World as certain circles have been claiming.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

The Serb offensive... why?

SERB LEADER Radovan Karadzic has threatened to attack United Nations soldiers protecting Gorazde which is the last Muslim enclave where thousands of Bosnian refugees were told a year ago to stay there under the full assurance of U.N. protection. The fall of Gorazde will expose the U.N. Secretary General's involvement in the nefarious game of creating a greater Orthodox Serbia at the expense of the disarmed Muslim Bosnians who were short-sighted enough to attempt to claim "a Muslim sovereign state" on a European soil, forgetting that all the talk about human rights and democracy there is a very thin layer of face powder and make-up which does not apply to "ethnically non-clean" races or religions!

Only very few were surprised earlier by the Serb atrocities in Srebrenica. When the Serb General Ratko Mladic entered Srebrenica, he made sure that Bosnian Muslim go in one direction, which is to prison camps or execution. Bosnian children were sent in another direction... to the woods and Tuzla mountains to be found later and treated as refugees. The third group were young Bosnian women who were taken by special trucks to provide night entertainment to the Orthodox Serb soldiers who want their own "Republica Srpska" on all Bosnian territory.

Those horrible atrocities were expected as early as last June when the Bosnian General Andjelh'o Makar said on June 17: "We are afraid that the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) could block our liberating actions against the Serb paramilitary. Our enemies are bringing in heavy forces in order to stop us and force us to negotiate away 70 per cent of our land and to confine ourselves to only 30 per cent of our territory. The Bosnians and Croats can defeat the Serbs if the arms embargo on us is lifted."

Since 1991, the Serbs were acting as only pawns in that often practised and sordid game of nations. The aim is to use them to destroy the potential for a U.S.-German-Russian alliance. The fact that Germany regained its economic power in Europe after its reunification sent shivers of alarm in some European capitals, which labelled it as "The Fourth Reich" in an attempt to frustrate Bonn's deeper involvement in former Yugoslavia or extending its diplomatic recognition of Slovakia to other states as well.

For four years, no decisive action has been taken to protect national sovereignty in the Balkans — with the consequence of nearly two million refugees, four hundred thousand killed, untold suffering, and countless cases of rape.

I was very touched by what Zlatko Dizdarevic said to the "Newsweek" last week: "The United Nations people bargained with the terrorists while their soldiers were chained to fence posts in Pale. They even promised the Serbs everything. They made pledges that there would not be any more NATO air strikes, no-fly zones or resolutions protecting safe havens. Srebrenica has been taken. But more will fall into Serb hands, including Zepa and Gorazde and all Muslim safe havens in Sarajevo, we witnessed something similar to the horrors of an Oklahoma City. But it was regular once every 17 days for the last three years. The Serb snipers had their sights trained on our children for years and our kids were cut down nr killed. Our country and our people have been victims (of) a murderous geopolitical manoeuvres."

But what is the way out of this quagmire? Will the Bosnians accept a tiny portion of their homeless (30 per cent) and leave the rest of Ratko Mladic and other Serb killers?

"Which power can act now since the United Nations has been exposed as either too week to impose its will, or as party involved with other super powers in this geopolitical manoeuvre?

I think the United States is the only power which can use its aerospace capabilities to do what was done to the Iraqi military during the second Gulf war. Military experts, who had served in former Yugoslavia point to that fact that a coalition of Croat and Bosnian forces can easily defeat the Serbs. Had not the Bosnians been disarmed by the United Nations, they could have stopped Serb atrocities and genocide.

The arms embargo on the Bosnians denied them any chance to defend themselves. The embargo must thus be lifted.

It is tragic that fanaticism and power politics managed to destroy two examples of Muslims co-existing happily which Christians. Lebanon's pluralistic democratic society underwent the horrors of sectarian war, where thousands were shot or massacred at Shatilla just because they were not Christians.

The second examples is the tragic genocide of Bosnian Muslims, who used to form a model-role for other communities regarding inter-marriage, dialogue, co-existence and social harmony.

With those two models shattered, there should be no need to ask why the young Muslims become fundamentalists.

M. KAHIL

Will Yeltsin seek re-election?

By Richard Balmforth
Reuter

MOSCOW — Clear of eye but still slightly breathless, President Boris Yeltsin seems to be on the mend after a mild heart attack — but the big question is now "will he dare run again for president?"

In a Russian television interview in hospital on Tuesday night that ended a week-long absence from public view, the 64-year-old Kremlin leader said doctors had told him there would be no consequences from his July 10 heart seizure.

But although optimistic that he would be back at work soon, Mr. Yeltsin gave no clues as to his long-term plans. He did not say how his bout of ill-health might weigh in a final decision to seek another five-year term in office from June 1996.

But his aides have already prepared a way out should he now follow the counsel of his wife, Naina, and retire next June in favour of his protege, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Top aide Viktor Ilyushin suggested clearly last Friday that being a Russian president at this turbulent juncture in Russia's history was a one-term job of colossal pressures.

In this sense, Mr. Yeltsin may have become a victim of the executive presidential system he created in which he shoulders a huge burden of problems — although Mr. Chernomyrdin has in recent weeks taken over the handling of some key issues.

Mr. Ilyushin said Mr. Yeltsin had succumbed to the welter of crises and dramas that are part of modern Russian political life.

"It is enough to mention the (hostage-seizure) events in Budennovsk, the confrontation between the state Duma and the government, the impeachment procedure started by the communists, the events in Chechenya, to understand the daily overload Boris Yeltsin faces," he said.

In short, a Russian president burns out faster than most and Mr. Yeltsin's health might not stand up to another span in office.

In Kremlin politics, however, there is no tradition of a top leader bowing out gracefully. The concept of an elder statesman playing a useful background role is unknown.

The choice before Mr. Yeltsin — a political animal all his life — is either to be the supreme leader or an obscure pensioner.

Some commentators believe that Mr. Yeltsin, who wants to secure a niche in history as the father of Russian democracy, may bow out if he senses he would lose the race for president.

With his popularity currently at a low ebb over the Chechenya conflict, and people disenchanted with a low standard of living and a growing crime-wave, that is a distinct possibility.

"I think that Mr. Yeltsin has realistically to assess the situation. Failure at the elections is not necessary and it is better to go out of his own free will than not to be elected," said Viktor Sheinis, a respected moderate in parliament and member of the Liberal Opposition Yabloko faction.

"To run and lose would tarnish his place in history," said Michael McFaul, a political analyst at the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The big unknown is what the unpredictable Mr. Yeltsin wants to do. Although he looks a weaker figure now — he sounded meek and somewhat wistful on Tuesday night without his usual fire — he has a record of coming off the ropes and winning the contest.

Many have made the mistake of counting him out too soon.

Either way, he is unlikely to announce his long-term plans until after the parliamentary election in Dec. 17, which will give a clear read-out of the political mood of the country.

A strong showing by Mr. Chernomyrdin at the head of "Our Home is Russia" centre-right bloc, producing a more moderate state Duma, might persuade him to bow out in favour of his heir apparent.

If Communists and the ultranationalists perform strongly however, he might decide to run again against all the odds.

"Our president is not a predictable person and his decision could turn out to be quite arbitrary," Mr. Sheinis said. "Once upon a time he had intuition. But he has lost his intuition now."

Retirement also could prove difficult in the worst scenario.

"Yeltsin has a lot of enemies out there, people who say he acted illegally, carried out crimes against the state. Retirement might not be all that peaceful for him," Mr. McFaul said.

The Week in Print

West responsible for ending Bosnians' suffering

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

ARABIC DAILIES last week gave prominence to the situation in Bosnia, Jordan's efforts to help the victims of aggression in that country, Saudi-Jordanian relations, Arab affairs and domestic questions.

Describing the Serbs' aggression against the Bosnian Muslims as one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in human history, Al Ra'i daily said the world community should heed the warnings of France and its call for a prompt action to deal with the situation. The Bosnians are in need of arms to defend themselves and speedy action on the part of the world community to halt the Serbian aggression, said the paper. Noting that a few countries have so far responded to the call for help, the paper said that Jordan, with its meagre resources and limited means, has organised relief supplies to the embattled nation. It said that the time has come for the world to wake up and shoulder its responsibilities towards the victims of aggression.

Soltan Al Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i, said the situation in Bosnia is a stigma for the United Nations, the Islamic countries and the Arab World. The heroism of Arabs and Muslims as written in books are mere legends and imaginary subjects that are not even worth presenting to the Arab and Muslim children to learn about because the Arabs and Muslims have proved impotent in the face of aggression on Muslim people in Europe and all talk about old acts of heroism appears to be totally baseless, said the writer. It is regrettable, said the writer, to hear the world talking about alleged Islamic terrorism while it watches the Serbs committing atrocities against women and children, he said. Saying that the Western powers have the potential to stop the aggression within hours if they want to, the writer said there was no hope for such action since the West is condoning the aggression, which is motivated by religious beliefs.

Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the failure of the United Nations to deal with the situation in Bosnia and stop the Serbian aggression, is a failure for the so-called new world order and for the United States in particular because it is assuming a leading role in world affairs. The writer said that the Arab and Muslim governments have been watching Bosnian Muslims being killed in Bosnia and Afghanistan but they refrained so far from doing anything to end the bloodshed and help the oppressed people. The writer said that bitterness fills the hearts of Arab and Muslim masses not only over the ongoing massacres in Bosnia but also over these governments' close relationships with the Europeans and the United States. Should these governments open the door for volunteers to go to Bosnia and fight against the aggressors, tens of thousands would go and help the oppressed people in the face of the criminal attacks, he added.

It is strange to see Arab and Muslim governments maintaining friendly ties with the United States, which is condoning the aggression on the Muslim people of Bosnia, said Mahmoud Rimawi, Washington can put an end to the atrocities in no time and the least it can do at the moment is to supply the Bosnians with the weapons which they can use to defend themselves, said the writer. The United States shoulders a political and moral responsibility towards the Bosnians and towards ending the war, he added. Similarly, the Arab and Islamic countries have a serious responsibility towards helping the Muslim people in Bosnia, but, regrettably, they are refraining from taking action to stop the ethnic cleansing and the religious war being waged on Muslims in Europe, added the writer. He said that the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference ought to move promptly and stop the massacre.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that it is clear now that the Western nations do not accept an Islamic nation to exist in Europe and they are dragging their feet in taking military action against the Serbs. The writer said that some of the Western countries are not only condoning the atrocities against the Muslims but also helping the aggressors and depriving the Muslims of arming themselves for self-defence. The systematic killing of the Muslims in Bosnia is going ahead with no end in sight and the Western countries are just looking on and pretending they are in disagreement over the action that should be taken vis-a-vis the situation, according to the writer.

It is strange to hear the U.S. Congress failing to agree on sending 1,000 soldiers to help the U.N. peace-keeping troops in Bosnia when it is in agreement over stationing 18,000 American troops in the Arabian Peninsula and launching war on Iraq, said Tarcq Masarweh. The columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the aggression on Iraq in 1991 was aimed at humiliating all the Arab countries while the continued aggression on the Bosnian people is aimed at subduing all Muslim nations. The writer said that what Washington wants to see is the Arabs and Muslims capitulating and yielding to all American desires and dictates.

Writing in Al Ra'i, Mahmoud Rimawi tackled the Saudi-Jordanian relations saying that the time was ripe for the two countries to resume normal relations not only because the cause of tension between them over the Gulf crisis is over but also in a bid to pave the ground for joint-Arab action in the face of common dangers. The writer said the foreign minister's visit to Riyadh last week was the first step towards opening a new chapter in Arab relations and paved the ground for Riyadh to respond favourably to Jordan's friendly and brotherly approach. The numerous challenges facing the Arabs at the moment calls for reconciliation among their governments as a pre-requisite to unifying Arab ranks and dealing with Arab issues with reason and wisdom, said the writer.

Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that pan-Arab reconciliation is a must at a time when the Arabs and Muslims are plagued by serious questions and facing continuous challenges, the only beneficiary of the disarray in Arab ranks, said the writer, is the enemy of the Arabs and Muslims and the only loser is the Arab masses. Saying that the enemies of the Arabs are continuing to fish in muddy waters and trying to find ways to mar relations among Arab countries, the writer said that it is hoped that the new chapter in Saudi-Jordanian relations would pave the ground for a greater and wider reconciliation among Arab states.

A writer in Al Ra'i said that the success of 10 women in the municipal elections reflected a deep and positive transformation within the Jordanian society. Zulaikha Abu Risheh said that women's active participation in the elections demonstrated the degree of awareness among Jordanian women and their desire to help build their country and take part in socio-economic development. The election of 10 women is a first step towards further successes in a country which is pursuing a course of democracy and respect of women's rights to assume decision-making responsibilities, she added.

Tackling the sharp rise in the cost of living in Jordan, Mohammad Daoud, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the concerned authorities seem to be absent from the market scene and unaware that the merchants are imposing their will on the public. Merchants used to complain that the Ministry of Supply was competing with them by importing basic commodities and selling them for a reasonable price to the public and gradually they succeeded in driving the ministry out of the market only to impose their rising prices on the citizens, said the writer. The merchants now have a free hand in manipulating and profiteering practices and the ministry turns a blind eye allowing the merchants to mass fortunes and increase the misery of the limited income groups, he added.

Honour, too, is put to flight in Bosnia

By Roger Cohen

MANY THINGS have died or been seriously compromised in Bosnia. The optimism of the cold war's end. The credibility of NATO. The American commitment to European security. The notion that a Europe no longer divided shares a commitment to basci human dignity. But perhaps the death of Western honour has been the most devastating.

It was a sense of honour, conceived as part of a military culture that also embraced the values of self-sacrifice and unswerving courage, that drove American boys into Nazi fire and onto the Normandy beaches. The same values were the guarantee and the bedrock of postwar security and prosperity in Western Europe. Even in Vietnam, where America's confidence in itself was battered, the honour of fighting to extend the reach of freedom stood at the core of the beliefs of those who backed the war.

But where lies the honour, or the commitment to anything, amid the Bosnian morass? Forty months into the war the sight in recent days of still further thousands of Muslim women and children pushed over the Bosnian hills by the Serbs after the fall of the so-called United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica was a reminder of how far the West has fallen in Bosnia. The number of Muslims thus shifted during the war now exceeds three-quarters of a million.

French U.N. peacekeepers visit a Bosnian army post on Mount Igman near Sarajevo (AFP photo)

A 'lack of values'

This defeat — for the mixed society of Bosnia is now in shreds — has its political and military implications; but in themselves these are perhaps not overwhelming. Bosnia is a small country of no compelling strategic significance or wealth. It is the defeat of Western values in this ill-born state that may prove most costly.

Indeed, the question of what, if anything, Western democracies stand ready to defend has to be posed. In an essay on Bosnia published last week, Jean Baudrillard, a French sociologist wrote, "What the West now wants to impose on the wbole world, under the cover of universality, is not its values, which are completely disjointed, but precisely its lack of values." In the name, he added, "of an indifferent and valueless world order?"

Of course, Europe and America know from two world wars that the Balkans are intractable terrain, and the argument that involvement in the Bosnian war would have been folly cannot be lightly dismissed. The war has been successfully contained until now, albeit at the cost of prolonging it. Many in the west also know that appeals to honour can sometimes prolong horrible mistakes, as in Flanders and elsewhere during World War I. But none of this can alter the fact that the Western surrender before the destruction of Bosnia has revealed a hollowness at the heart of Western societies.

There have been individual acts of courage in Bosnia. One of the most conspicuous occurred in Srebrenica in March 1993. Lieutenant-General Philippe Morillon, then the commander of United Nations forces in Bosnia, went to the embattled Muslim enclave and declared that he would not move until the survival of its people was assured.

Like most examples of bravery, and some of outstanding leadership, it was an irrational act. In the name of military principles, including the sacredness of the mission and personal honour, this French officer identified his own life with those of tens of thousands of Muslims, most of whom had already lost their homes to Serbs and been herded into Srebrenica. Confronted by this stubborn general, the Bosnian Serbs desisted from their onslaught and Srebrenica survived for another 28 months. Srebrenica was called a haven, although it was in essence a large camp.

The freshly bereaved

Still it was better than the kindergartens, schools and rundown shelters in Kladanj and Tuzla where old Muslim women who lost their husbands or sons in 1992 have lain almost prostate with grief for over three years, to be joined this week by the freshly bereaved.

Srebrenica's fall was directly related to the fact that General Morillo's stand proved so unusual. Repeated climbdowns from tough stands have been the rule in Bosnia. The pattern was particularly conspicuous when the serbs seized several hundred United Nations soldiers as hostages in late May after NATO air strikes near Pale.

Puhlic declarations of unbending firmness were made by Western leaders at the same time as private evidence of utter pliability was being given to the serbs through secret meetings and letters. The Serbs, no fools, drew their own conclusions and soon marched into Srebrencia, a town the United Nations had vowed to protect.

Shortly after the hostage crisis, Lieutenant Gilles Jarron, a United Nations officer in Sarajevo and a proud member of the French Foreign Legion, described what happened during three weeks that he had spent with 11 other legionnaires surrounded at a United Nations weapons-collection site in Ilidza, a Serb-held suburb.

On May 27, the day after the second NATO air strike near Pale, 80 Serbs with rocket-propelled grenades approached the French soldiers, while a T-55 tank levelled its cannon at them. The Serbs gave the peacekeepers five minutes to give up.

Lt. Jarron called his commanding officer. There was little question the legionnaires would all be killed in any battle. The last order he received from Colonel Jean-Louis Franceschini was, "from this moment on, make sure that every French is paid for dearly by the Serbs."

The legionnaires duly prepared to fight. "The honour of a soldier is to die with his arms," said Lt. Jarron. "We were all serene and deteremined."

Every evening, as the stand-off wore on and the Serbs failed to carryout their threats, the soldiers read each other the code of the legionnaire: "The mission is sacred. You execute it to the end, at any price. In combat you act without passion or hatred. You respect your defeated enemy. Never do you abandon your dead, your injured or your arms."

Valor undone

The honour of these men, standing under a United Nations flag and guarding a selection of Serbian artillery in a torlorn outpost, was conspicuous.

But it was also rendered perposterous by the institution they serve. Even then, the commander of the United Nations forces General Bernard Janvier, was slipping off to clandestine get-togethers with Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, who had orchestrated the hostage-taking. After the crisis ended, the post was abandoned and the Serbs got the weapons in it.

But then, Gen. Janvier is no longer a French officer in the sense defined by the legionnaires code. As a senior United Nations official, he has become the representative of a consensus so wide — a coalition so weak — as to be the enemy of the leadership, individual courage and codes of honour.

It is here that America's absence from Bosnia has been felt most profoundly. America still personifies the confidence necessary to draw a distinction between right and wrong and then fight for it. Europe lacks the self-belief, the unity, even perhaps the relative innocence of an unconquered state, to do so.

Bill Clinton, as a candidate in 1992, was clear enough that essential values were threatened in Bosnia. He spoke of genocide and the dangers of sitting and watching. He suggested that he was ready tofight to stop the sort of ethnic purification that reached a new upogee at Srebrenica.

But then he shrank away, under a barrge of warnings of Vietnam-like quagmires, talks of ancient tribal rivalries, and the notion that the Bosnian war is purely a civil war. He committed himself, instead, to backing from afar the effort to contain the war while distributing United Nations rice and macaroni to Bosnians — that is, to the substitution of charity for foreign policy.

Does Bosnia exist?

The war has festered. A fundamentally racist attack on a mixed society, initiated from Serbia, has continued. Indeed, it began in earnest in early April 1992, not far from Srebrenica, when militiamen from Belgrade began shooting Muslims in the street in Bjeljina and Zvornik, so sowing the seeds of hatred necessary to destroy Bosnia.

For that is the core of the Serbian proposition: Bosnia, a state recognised by the United Nations, a mixed society, does not exist. Neither the United States nor Europe nor the United Nations have ever been ready to confront that claim.

By resuming full diplomatic relations with Vietnam 20 years after the fall of Saigon, President Clinton closed a difficult chapter in American history. Vietnam was a defeat: but it came after a war undertaken, however disastrously, in pursuit not only of self-interest but of a principle: the fight against Communism and the defence of an American conception of freedom and human dignity.

In Vietnam, therefore, the often-repeated phrase — "withdrawal with honour" — was not entirely empty. A United Nations withdrawal from Bosnia, could make no such claims. If a "bright shining lie," to borrow the phrase of John Paul Vann, is what sustained Americans in Vietnam, the peacekeepers in Bosnia have been offered less: a moral void.

New York Times.

Race resurfaces as political issue in Britain

By Alan Raybould
Reuter

LONDON — If the British government is to be believed, hordes of would-be asylum seekers and waves of immigrants are waiting off its shores, ready to invade the country and inflame tension in the inner cities.

The figures may show a net outflow of migrants in recent years. But the ruling Conservatives, trailing badly in opinion polls, smell votes from the race issue.

Immigrants' place in British society has hit the headlines with riots by Asians in the northern English city of Bradford and the claim by London's police chief that most muggings in the capital are carried out by young black men.

In the next few months, Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard is expected to introduce legislation tightening immigration rules. New government rules on asylum seekers have sharply cut the number of refugees entering Britain.

Civil rights groups say black immigration was effectively stopped years ago, and are outraged by what they see as plans to control and barrass blacks in Britain, many of them born here, to please white right-wing voters before an election in 1997.

"We believe that the tightening-up of any procedures are a clear and transparent playing of the race card before the general election, based on the myth that we have a high nnmber of illegal immigrants," Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) told Reuters.

Mr. Howard is adamant. Britain could be proud of its record on race relations, he said in an interview in May, but good race relations needed "firm and fair immigration control."

"For too long, this country has been seen as an attractive destination for bogus asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants."

Liberals would query that, particularly after the case of Joy Gardner, a 40-year-old Jamaican woman who died of kidney failure after police officers tried to deport her. Ms. Gardner died after police restrained her with a body belt and wound four metres of sticky tape around her mouth and head.

The officers involved were cleared of manslaughter.

Peter Tompking, a former chief inspector of the Immigration service, said in February that illegal immigration had reached almost 40,000 people a year, but his old service detected just 4,400 illegal immigrants in 1994.

British immigration law dates back to the Aliens Act of 1905, when the government took fright at the number of poor Jews coming to Britain to flee persecntion in Eastern Europe.

In the 1940s and 1950s, black people from the Caribbean were actively sought to work here on the production lines of the car industry and in the expanding public services.

But the post-war economic boom petered out in the late 1960s and the political mood changed. Black people were no longer desirably cheap labour, but "taking jobs from Englishmen."

These days, citizens of the European Union are allowed to settle here. But not many others — except close relatives of people already resident — can get in legally.

"There are very few things that anyone can do to cut back on black immigration. If you're black, you're not going to get in unless you've got a million pounds," Mr. Moraes said.

About 36,000 people from former colonies in the Commonwealth migrated to Britain in 1993, and they were outnumbered by the 47,000 that left Britain for Commonwealth countries.

Registers reported a growing number of sham weddings, with Britons marrying foreigners just to win them residency rights.

"Sometimes they bave trouble pronouncing each other's names. I have actually followed people out and seen money change bands. I bave seen people go in different directions," Peter Sontag of the Camden Register Office in north London told the right wing Daily Mail.

Similar stories popped up in other newspapers.

"It's suddenly an issue because the Home Office is feeding the tabloids in particular with stories about bogns marriages. The reason is they're trying to pump up the notion of illegal immigration to get a situation whereby they can say we need legislation to control this," Mr. Moraes said.

A Home Office spokesman declined comment, although he said an announcement on immigration rules could be made soon.

Mr. Moraes is braced for an attack on illegal immigration, perhaps before parliament breaks up for the summer on July 20.

Immigrants will find it harder to bring in their spouses, and bigger penalties are likely for organising sham marriages.

Asylum procedures may again be tightened, only two years after a previous law slashed the proportion of acceptance.

A recent report from pressure group asylum aid was scathing in its condemnation of some of the Home Office's excuses for not accepting that asylum seekers were true political refugees.

"The Secretary of State understands that political prisoners currently detained in Ethiopia are kept in comfortable cells and are freely permitted visits from relatives and friends," one applicant was told.

West threatens

(Continued from page 1)

feared the wording of tbe allies' message would cause the Serbs to attack U.N. safe areas other than Gorazde.

"They always produce half-measures," Mr. Silajdzic told CNN. "Instead of saying enough is enough, they are safe areas. You do not attack safe areas, period.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Thursday that if a plan to protect Sarajevo and Gorazde was not agreed within days, the U.N. peacekeeping force "is likely to withdraw."

France has favoured putting more of its troops into Gorazde, the next "safe area" likely to be targeted by the Bosnian Serbs, with the help of U.S. transport and attack helicopters.

The Clinton administration wanted to avert a U.N. withdrawal, which would involve sending 25,000 U.S. troops to help with the pullout and worsen the suffering in Bosnia. No U.S. ground troops are in Bosnia.

But German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said on Friday there was no full agreement at the international crisis meeting on Bosnia in London and Russia had opposed military action to deter the Bosnian Serbs.

"In this eight-hour meeting there was not an absolute unity of opinions. The Russians expressed their opinion that they rejected military actions and that they put strong weight on political negotiations," Mr. Kinkel told reporters.

President Bill Clinton welcomed the agreement to defend Gorazde if it comes under attack by Bosnian Serbs.

"I am encouraged," Mr. Clinton said during remarks at the White House. He said "the United States is determined to do everything we can" to fend off Bosnian Serb attacks and to bring peace to the former Yugoslav republic.

French Defence Minister Charles Millon said Friday that if airstrikes were "insufficient" to defend the U.N.-declared safe area of Gorazde from Bosnian Serb attacks that "other methods" would be used.

"We note with satisfaction that there will be a combination of methods, air and ground," he said in a television interview.

In the battle field, the Bosnian government army commander in the besieged Zepa enclave threatened to shell Ukrainian peacekeepers if the United Nations did not send a senior officer to mediate with attacking Serbs, a U.N. spokesman said.

Bosnian government forces defending Zepa had attacked the Ukrainians' main base near the town for 1½ hours on Thursday night with machineguns, hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades, U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said in Sarajevo.

Another U.N. spokesman, Alexander Ivanko, said the local government commander, Avdo Palic, had threatened to shell the Ukrainian compound on Friday morning if a senior U.N. official did not mediate between the warring parties.

Muslim soldiers in the government army claim the Ukrainians are sympathenc to their fellow ortbodox Christian Serbs and have no intention of trying to prevent them from capturing the small, hilly enclave and its 17,000 Muslim inhabitants.

Mr. Ivanko called on the Bosnian government to halt attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.

Sarajevo's U.N. Deputy Commander, Colonel Verhoglyad, was heading for a Ukrainian observation post on the edge of Zepa in response to the threat "to mediate and monitor the safe passage of civilians," Mr. Ivanko said.

But a U.N. spokeswoman later said Bosnian Serb forces blocked the colonel and his liaison team at the Rogatica checkpoint, about half way between the Serb stronghold of Pale and Zepa, despite the fact his presence had also been requested by the Bosnian Serb commander.

The Rogatica checkpoint is notoriously difficult to get through.

Serb Commander General Ratko Mladic has told Zepa's civilians to leave under U.N. escort and stated his intention to take prisoner all men aged from 18 to 55 and hold tbem until tbey are exchanged with Serb prisoners held by the government.

U.S. expert says Amman economic conference tied to peace process

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "Peace and security are closer to realisation today than at any time in modern history. (But) peace cannot last without concrete benefits for the people of the Middle East and North Africa," Joan Spero, undersecretaty of state for business, economic, and agricultural affairs, advised business leaders in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Casablanca July 20.

Speaking via satellite on a United States Information Agency (USIA) Worldnet television programme Ms. Spero acknowledged that "the desert, or the Middle East, will not bloom overnight. Developing joint ventures, developing projects, be they small or large, will take time."

She described the Middle East-North Africa economic summit, which will take place in Amman in October, as "tied closely to the Middle Eastr Peace Process," and emphasised that both President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher are personally committed to the success of the summit. She reported that Mr. Christopher will lead a U.S. delegation which will include Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and other senior U.S. government officials.

"We in the United States have no illusions that prosperity will come quickly or easily to the region," she said. "The road to development and regional cooperation is a difficult one." She predicted, however, that Amman will provide opportunities and incentives to start the process and she urged her audience to join the efforts. "We want your panicipation in and support for the summit, and for the economic development of the entire region," she said.

Following are xcerpt from Ms. Spero's remarks:

"I'd like to spend a minute, talking about the Middle East-North Africa economic summit, which is our topic for today. I am delighted to be here, delighted to have a chance to talk to all of you in the Middle East about this Middle East-North Africa economic summit, which will take place on Oct. 29 through Oct. 31 in Amman, Jordan.

"As a co-sponsor of the Amman summit, we in the United States would like to share views on the summit's potential and its opportunities for advancing regional development. And I welcome this opportunity to explain why we encourage government and buisness leaders to attend and to participate in the summit.

"The Amman summit is tied closely to the Middle East peace process. Peace and security are closer to realisation today than at any time in modern history. The progress made by the parties in the region over the past four years is quite simply remarkable. On all fronts there is a clear sense of momentum. Peace and security are essential for the economic development of the region. At the same time, peace cannot last without concrete benefits for the people of the Middle East and North Africa — benefits that are only possible through increased trade, investment and entrepreneurship. As you in the audience know, the Middle East and North Africa have a wealth of resources. The region has a well educated population of over 100 million people, a rich culture and history, enormous natural resources and critical transportation routes. Yet regional conflicts, as well as statist and protectionist economic policies, have prevented the region from realising its economic potential.

"The Amman summit can serve as an impetus for economic change. The summit will gather senior government and business representatives from nearly 60 countries dedicated to advancing business development, the concept for the summit is public-private partnership. The private sector must provide the entrepreneurial talent, investment capital,and technical expertise for development. The public sector, for its part, must improve the economic environment for liberalising trade policies, reducing regulation, privatising industry and improving the investment climate.

"I am a former executive myself from the private sector, and I know that the primary concern of business people is to make sound and profitable investments. That's why the summit organisers aree laying the groundwork for business and economic development opportunities at the summit. Let me tell you their goals.

"First, moving forward on regional institutions: A development bank for financing regional and private sector development, a business council and a tourism board, all with regional governmental and private secior participation.

"Second, encouraging regional states to liberalise their economies and to develop a free-market approach to development.

"Third, deepening contacts between both government and the private sector, and within the private sector itself.

"And, finally, preparing actual development projects in the region. We expect that there will be an emphasis on projects involving more than one country.

"Now, to achieve these goals, the parties have decided that the Amman summit should be smaller, more focused, and more oriented towards the private sector than was the Casablanca summit. Plenary sessions will focus on the four major themes of the summit: trade and industry, infrastructure, investment and finance, and the economic environment. Project briefings, roundtables, and industry-specific workshops in the nine key sectors will provide opportunities for business people, as well as government decision-makers, to exchange experience, pursue opportunities, and follow up on projects.

"Both President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher are personally committed to the success of the summit. Secretary Christopher will lead the U.S. delegation, which will include our Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and other senior U.S. government officials.

"(As for what the U.S. government is doing, in particular, what we are doing to try to promote dialogue between Arabs and Israelis), as I mentioned before, we have been actively consulting our private business sector, and we have formed a group that consists of our Commerce Department and of our State Department and private sector people, to try to see where they see the business opportunities, and what role government might be able to play in facilitating those business opportunities. So we are starting with our own private sector, and trying to encourage them to get involved, and trying to see that whether through our embassies, through our trade facilitation programmes, through our own ability to network, we can promote business interests. So we're on the case.

"Regrding financing and the small- and medium-sized businesses, I think that in many cases big business needs support in the form of financing or in an Amman-type summit less than the small- and medium-sized businesses do. They have less capacity to network internationally, they have less access perhaps to finance, and certainly there are massive opportunities. We also know, in the U.S. and elsewhere, that it's small- and medium-sized business that provides much of the employment, and that is a major issue in the Middle East.

"Let me make a comment about the financing point, if I may. One of the institutions that we are working on now, and that we hope to have completed in — and to be able to reach a political commitment for by the time of the Amman summit, is this Middle East and North Africa Development Bank. Let me take a moment to comment about that bank, because it very much addresses the issue that you are raising.

"The Middle East, in order to develop, is going to need capital. It is going to need financing. That financing cannot come solely or exclusively, or even primarily, from the government. But what the government can do, along with the multilateral institutions, is to prime the pump. Government can provide finacing for projects that do not lend themselves to private sector development: and government, operating through multilateral institutions, can also try to act, if you will, as an investment banker, mobilising private and public sector funds. And that is the idea behind the Middle East and North Africa Development Bank.

"Business has a number of prerequisites for productive investment. One of course is peace and security. Business is going to feel much better about moving into the region as peace spreads and as the region stabilises. In addition, as you point out, there has to be predictability. Business likes as much predictability as possible, so they need to know what the investment laws will be, they need to know what the regulatory regime will be. But, beyond that, they are going to want to know things like pricing policies: What are the pricing policies going to be for electricity and for water and for other natural resources?

"So there are several ways to approach this. One of course is at the national level. And many of the governments in the region are moving to modernise their laws about foreign investment — their tax laws. Jordan is one example. There is legislation now being discussed now in Jordan that would open up foreign investment, that would modernise the tax regime, and basically make Jordan much more user friendly for foreign and private investment. So things can be done at the national level.

"In addition, there is the possibility of cooperation across national boundaries. And this is exactly the Jordan Rift Valley dialogue that is going on between Jordan and Israel right now. And that will be a major theme at the summit. There are incredible possibilities in that area that range from tourism and parks in the Dead Sea, to electricity, water facilties, possible airports and transportation facilities at Eilat and Aqaba for example. And there has been a recent suggestion that all that could be facilitated by developing a common regime, common rules of the road, for investment, for taxation, for cooperation. So that would be another way to promote business.

"Let me mention one final area where there might be cross-border cooperation to promote business. Another idea that has been discussed is the development of industrial zones between Israel and the Palestinian administration. Those have a great appeal, because they could promote investment, they could encourage employment: which is a major issue in Gaza and the West Bank, and they would provide for cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians. Again, that would be an example of a cross-border regime, where you would have tax rules, infrastructure development and regulations, so that is yet another way to promote investment. I think it is a very exciting possibility. And, I think, again, it will be a possibility that should and will be discussed in Amman. We should be doing everything we can to promote appropriate national policy changes, and what I would call government joint ventures, wherever possible.

"The United States has been encouraging the Gulf states to come —not only have the business people come, but to have the government leaders come. In addition, Jordan is taking initiatives vis-a-vis the Gulf states to encourage them to come. I know that the foreign minister visited Saudi Arabia recently: I gather that meeting went quite well. I gather there is the talk about improving diplomatic relations. And that political initiative, which really is an adjunct, a corollary if you will to the peace process, I think will create a more favourable environment for business transactions. So a number of us are in dialogue with the Gulf states — both people from the region and from outside the region, in encouraging their participation. So I am optimistic. There was representation in Casablanca, both of the business sector and of government officials of the Gulf, and we are very hopeful that they will also come to Amman. We have to recognise that there have been sensitivities in those relationships since the Gulf war, but we should look at Amman as an opportunity. It is an opportunity to reestablish an important government and business sector dialogue between Jordan and the countries of the Gulf. So I am optimistic about that.

"In the longer term, as I said, the real solution (for the region) is going to be peace and security. But there is, I would say, another approach, and that goes back to the industrial zones that I talked about. One of the major concerns, particularly in Gaza, is employment. And while the numbers have increased quite significantly from below, in terms of workers going from Gaza to Israel, still there is large unemployment in Gaza, and there is real need to find jobs for people. There are two ways to do that. One is to do it in Gaza, and there we can think about business projects and opportunities that will require infrastructure development. And you probably know that the United States, Europe, Japan and others, are spending a lot of money and a lot of time trying to develop the infrastructure of Gaza.

"And then there is this concept that I mentioned earlier of industrial zones. Those industrial zones could be opportunities for exports. They could be opportunities for significant employment. They won't happen overnight. But I think it is a concept well worth exploring.

"So there are multiple ways. We are engaged with the Israelis and the Palestinians in multiple efforts. It won't be solved overnight. But it is a problem that we must address.

"At the same time, there are several important things going on. As I said, for Gaza and the West Bank, the so-called donors group — the United States, Europe, Japan and others — are working very hard at developing the infrastructure that will set the basis for development — working on sewage, working on roads, working on water. All of those are prerequisites for investment. At the same time, as we move along on that effort, we are also trying to encourage the process of private sector development. Now, we have a saying in the United States — I don't know how it works in the Middle East — which is, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. So we are trying to lead the horse to water, and we can do that in a variety of ways. We can try to develop the Middle East Development Bank, which will be for the private sector and for regional projects. We can have the summit in Amman, as we had the summit — not we, but the region did, in Casablanca — to try to create opportunities for business people to come together. I look at this as not only an opportunity for encounter and for networking, but also for marketing. It's an opportunity for the Middle East to tell the rest of the world that we are open for business.

"So we can also find other ways to encourage the private sector. The United States has just established a $250 million fund — our Overseas Private Investment Corp., which will guarantee investments in the Middle East against political and other risks, and which will provide certain financing for the Middle East. So that is why we are calling Amman a public-private sector partnership. Government has a role to play; the private sector has a role to play. We have to start the process. But we shouldn't kid ourselves in thinking that everything is going to change overnight. But, as we also say in the United States, a long journey begins with one step.

"There is significant funding going to the Middle East now, from the United States and other developed countries. But I think it is unrealistic to expect that we are going to be able to persuade our legislatures, our congresses, and our people, to use public funds for development in the Middle East and North Africa. We will continue to try to find ways to leverage our funds; but you in the Middle East need to understand that we have needs at home, and there is not a feeling that we should or can provide massive new flows. Now, that's maybe the bad news.

"The good news is that what we know from the history of economic development is that's not the way countries develop. What governments need to do are two things. First of all, governments need to get out of the way. Governments need to open up their markets. They need to — and that is something that we can do. I know that Morocco for example is now engaged in trade negotiations with Europe. You have a very critical market in Europe, and you're talking about how to open up that market more for your product. So that's one thing our governments can do. Another thing your governments can do is to move toward this deregulation, privatisation; and, again, I know that it is happening in Morocco. So governments need to get out of the way.

"Now, finally, the other thing that governments can do is to try to proivde finance in those areas where the private sector will not do financing, or to try to provide incentives for the private sector to act. That is the idea of the Middle East Development Bank. That is the idea of our OPIC, which guarantees private sector investment against political risk — and there is poltical risk in the Middle East. That is the whole idea of the Amman conference.

"So I think you have to decide what development works. All the history shows us, all the economic analysis shows us, that large government projects funded by large government institutions and foreign aid, are not what create development. And that is why the focus of the Amman summit is on the private-public sector partnership.

"Europe can and should play an important role. I must say that we have been working very closely with the Europeans in aid to the Palestinians, and I want to be sure that we are on the record as saying that the Europeans, both at a national level and at an EU level, have been quite generous. So they are major donors to the region.

"As you probably know, Europe is not only negotiating a number of trade agreements throughout the region — they are going to begin negotiations with Egypt, I understand. You have had ongoing negotiations with them. So there is an opportunity for them also to provide a market. And there are a lot of difficult issues, as you know — agricultural concerns, smaller manufacturing — these are tough issues that are going to have to be worked out. We hope that Europe will be open for the markets, for the products of the Middle East.

"And then finally I should add the European Union is looking towards a Mediterranean policy. There will be a meeting in Barcelona later this year — I believe in December — where the Europeans and people from the Mediterranean countries, which really is the Middle East and North Africa — will be getting together to talk about how they can build a more prosperous Mediterraoean. So I believe that Europe is looking to the Mediterranean. I believe that there are opportunities for trade. I believe there has been assistance. As you know, there are long-standing ties — Morocco and France, for example. I note that your colleagues seem to have a French-language publication. So there are very close ties there, and Europe can and should — and I must say is — playing a role already in the Middle East.

CROSSWORDS NOT RECEIVED

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Getting into business affairs early today which are hard to handle during the busy week is wise for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This morning is fine for coming to a meeting of minds with a partner, but do nothing which can make him or her distrust you later today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at tasks ahead of you this morning, and later today avoid whatever could bring you trouble of some kind.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early this morning make plans for fun, but try not to be extravagant later today. Your mate can be very agreeable during the daytime.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can handle anything which arises at home in the morning wisely, but later today do nothing which could cause friction there.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may get mail which is important but wait a day or two before answering it so that you do not make any mistakes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle practical affairs this morning, and later today try to be more economical. Take time to make small repairs around the house.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can do much in the morning to gain your finest aims, but be careful not to rush into anything like a bull in the China shop.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to take care of whatever is bothering you this morning, and later today do not act overly independent.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can go after some personal aim in the morning, and gain it, but later today do not be forceful with others.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Handle home duties in the morning, since after lunch things could get rather hectic at home, which could cause troubles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have fine ideas and should quickly put them in operation and then persevere with whatever is of a proven nature.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE BETTER HALF® By Gtasbergen

"I set the alarms on your watch.
One beep means it's time to kiss me.
Two beeps means it's time to hug me..."

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LELIS

ZIRPE

CHORBO

NATILE

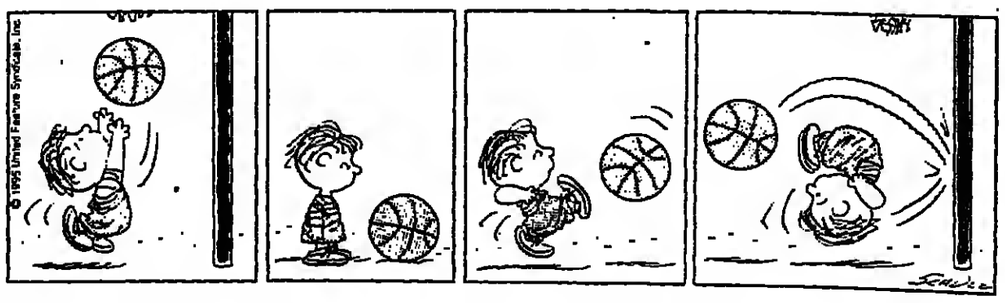
©1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

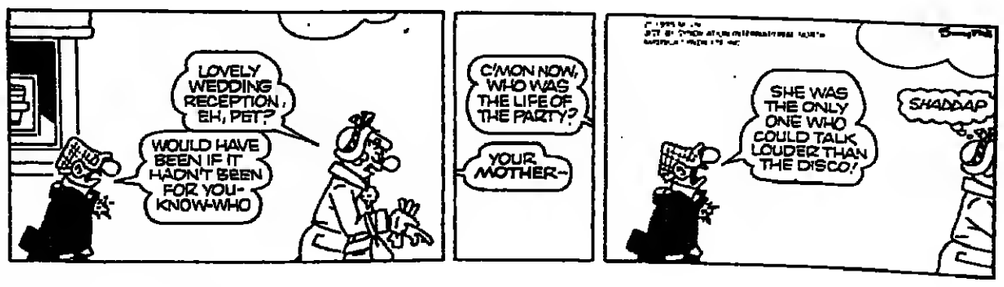
Print answer here : "○○○○○○○○○○○○"

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHISK TAWNY LAOING MORBID
Answer: Where money goes when the plumber comes — DOWN THE DRAIN

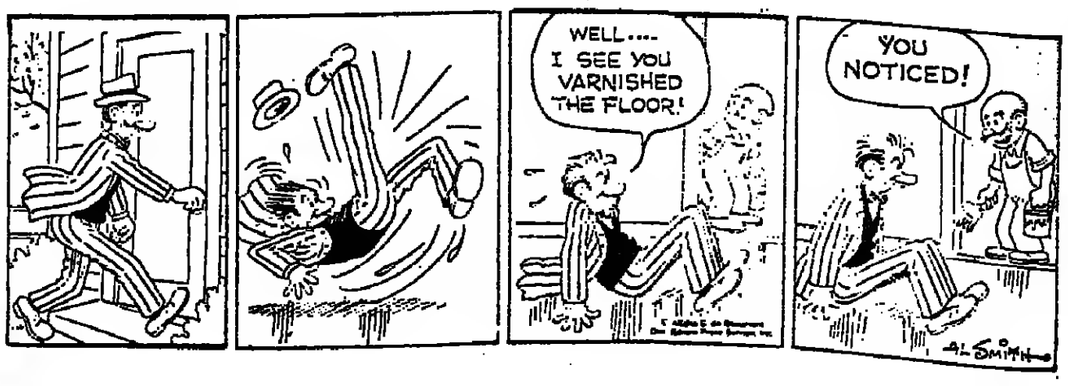
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



PRIZES FOR YOUNG JORDANIAN SCIENTISTS

" Trying Is Winning "

Working toward enhancing scientific manpower in Jordan, **Prizes for Young Scientists** are now granted for Jordanians by the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). Submission for these prizes is open till October 1995.

The prize is awarded every year rotating among four fields of pure science **Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.** Young Jordanian scientists are now invited to apply for the **TWAS PRIZE** which amounts to **$2000. Mathematics and Physics will be considered in the contest for the prize in the next two years.**

So, if you are a Jordanian, resident in Jordan, and of age not extending 40 years, we will be glad to receive your contribution in any of the two fields mentioned above, taking into consideration that submission is open till October 1995. We are ready to provide you with any additional information about the rules & mechanism of submission.

Interested applicants are kindly requested to contact **Mrs. Majd Khayyat Talhouni** at the following address:

The TWAS Unit
Royal Scientific Society
Amman _ Jordan
Fax: 844806
Tel: 844701
Telex: 21276 RAMAH JO

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Agricultural exports in 1994 total JD 140m

Jordan's agricultural exports in 1994 totalled JD 140 million, equalling 18 per cent of the Kingdom's exports whicb totalled JD 793 million, according to a report prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture. The report said sale of the agricultural produce constitutes about 7.5 per cent of the gross national product (GNP). Noting that 22 per cent of the Kingdom's population depend on agriculture, the study said the agricultural sector and the relevant activities contribute 28 per cent of the GNP. It said 7.5 per cent of the Jordanian labour force and large numbers of foreign labourers work in the sector. The study said local production of vegetables in 1994 totalled 1,126,000 tonnes, of which 969 tonnes were consumed locally and the rest exported. It added that local production of fruits and olives totalled 456,000 tonnes, of which 380,000 were consumed locally (Al Ra'i).

** Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samib Darwazeh said his ministry was currently conducting studies on extending oil pipelines between Jordan and Iraq. In reply to an item published in Al Ra'i Tuesday, Mr. Darwazeh said the studies will be comoleted within three months. Al Ra'i article published Tuesday said work on the project will begin within three months (Al Ra'i).

** A total of 2,518 new companies with a total capital of JD 235.7 million were registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade during the first half of 1995, seven companies more than those registered in the same period last year and a rise in the total capital by JD 63.4 million (Al Ra'i).

** A Ukrainian economic delegation will arrive in Amman Thursday to bold talks on economic and commercial cooperation. President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Haidar Murad said the delegation includes representatives of both public and private sectors, noting that the visit will continue till Aug.. 1. Jordan's exports to Ukraine rose from JD 29,000 in 1992 to JD 107,000 in 1993 and JD 345,000 in 1994. Jordan's imports from Ukraine totalled JD 5.9 million in 1992, JD 31.1 million in 1993 and JD 49.7 in 1994. During the first quarter of 1995, Jordan imported from Ukraine goods worth JD 13 million and exported there goods worth JD 75,000. Mr. Murad said these figures show that the balance of trade between the two countries is heavily in favour of Ukraine, which should prompt the Jordanian government and private sector to work on adjusting it. Jordan's main imports from Ukraine are iron bars, construction materials, medical equipment, chemical materials and cars. It exports gas ovens, towels, pharmaceutical products and agricultural products (Al Dustour).

Arab shipyard reports surge in business

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The biggest drydocks in the Middle East recorded a sharp increase in business in the first quarter of 1995 after a surge in net profits last year, according to an official report.

The Bahrain-based Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) repaired 34 vessels in the first quarter of 1995, an increase of 36 per cent over the same period of 1994, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has said in its monthly bulletin, obtained here.

Income from ship repair and maintenance rose by around 10 per cent in the same period, the report said without providing figures.

"The level of business in the company's two drydocks has remained high this year," the hulletin quoted an ASRY report as saying. "Such an increase is compaoble with projections in the company's budget."

ASRY, owned by the 10-nation OAPEC, made a net profit of around $66.5 million in 1994, an increase of 18 per cent over 1993.

The company has just completed expansion projects that made it the biggest drydocks in the region and one of the busiest in Asia. It can accommodate tankers witb a deadweight of up to 500,000 tonnes.

OAPEC, set up in Kuwait in 1968, groups Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, with Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Syria, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (19/07/1995 - 19/07/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	952,765	216.000	215.000	207.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	74,994	4.670	4.670	4.920
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	2,197	4.910	6.910	4.910
BANK OF JORDAN	19,802	2.470	3.470	2.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	92,047	1.210	1.220	1.230
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5,029	2.950	2.950	2.990
THE HOUSING BANK	84,256	8.190	8.150	8.000
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	21,134	2.840	9.840	2.800
JORDAN GULF BANK	20,567	1.240	1.240	2.160
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,088,009	2.900	2.900	2.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	110,064	9.750	9.790	2.720
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	9,830	4.408	4.400	4.360
BUSINESS BANK	1,159	2.850	2.858	3.840
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	14,909	4.190	4.150	4.000
BEIT ELMAL SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	4,801	2.770	2.770	2.650
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	149,561	1.100	1.100	1.100
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	14,014	9.900	9.200	9.290
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	212,784	1.660	1.550	1.570
BANKS SECTOR		3699270 CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER: 179.49 : -9.47%	
JORDAN INSURANCE	692	9.960	9.160	9.960
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	27,579	9.670	2.570	2.590
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	90	1.500	1.900	1.500
YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	7,928	9.240	9.260	9.300
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	1,410	9.970	2.970	9.820
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	9,705	2.600	2.600	2.690
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	1,289	9.040	2.040	9.820
THE NATIONAL AHLIA INSURANCE	8,016	9.800	2.000	9.000
INSURANCE SECTOR		99442 CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER: 129.84 : +0.94%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	979,749	1.650	1.650	1.610
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	249	1.280	1.280	1.250
JORDAN HIMEH MINERAL	709	2.958	1.990	9.820
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	98,190	6.000	5.000	5.700
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	9,422	2.920	2.920	2.850
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	29,509	2.210	2.910	2.130
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	2,972	1.090	1.030	1.010
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	999	1.200	1.200	1.190
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	979	0.570	0.570	0.650
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	90,250	10.000	10.000	9.850
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	16,908	2.290	9.290	9.180
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	85,919	2.210	9.910	9.290
SERVICES SECTOR		482994 CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER: 128.44 : -2.57%	
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	750	28.940	28.940	90.000
ATTAMQEER CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	609	1.240	1.940	1.210
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	138,799	2.700	2.700	2.540
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	107,369	2.050	3.050	2.980
THE ARAB POTASH	11,199	5.120	5.120	5.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	88,266	10.220	10.220	10.200
JORDAN TANNING	7,184	8.000	9.000	8.000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,522	2.250	3.250	3.320
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	22,252	7.900	7.900	7.700
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	149,999	4.840	4.840	4.920
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	9,913	5.950	5.950	5.900
JORDAN DAIRY	1,725	2.300	2.300	2.300
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	102,761	2.560	2.560	2.990
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	959	2.900	2.800	2.950
THE PUBLIC MINING	209	2.180	9.180	3.080
SPINNING & WEAVING	4,814	2.020	2.020	1.950
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	4,824	2.470	2.470	2.500
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	99,059	7.950	7.950	7.900
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	17,900	0.770	0.770	0.740
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	24,649	9.690	9.490	9.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	54,477	0.910	0.910	0.490
GENERAL INVESTMENT	35,775	2.730	2.730	2.500
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4,489	1.390	1.290	1.390
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	5,252	2.550	2.450	2.330
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	649,248	1.170	1.170	1.100
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	52,129	2.260	2.250	2.220
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	999	1.120	1.120	1.100
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,900	3.850	2.850	2.800
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	909	0.640	0.640	0.620
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	11,364	9.070	9.070	4.900
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	9,221	1.410	1.410	1.990
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	19,629	2.220	9.220	2.180
EARTHEN INVESTMENT	12,948	1.940	1.940	1.950
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	91,117	9.230	3.220	9.190
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	200,812	9.120	2.120	2.090
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	79,999	1.890	1.890	1.690
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		1957980 CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER: 127.28 : -1.84%	
GRAND TOTAL		4159226	INDEX NUMBER: 150.78	

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (15/07/1995 - 19/07/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	2,716	0.710	0.710	0.720
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	17,129	0.800	0.800	0.800
ZARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	47,792	1.420	1.420	1.290
UNIFIED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	28,191	9.490	2.430	2.970
ARAB FIN INV.CO	149,772	1.150	1.190	1.140
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	9,317	0.990	0.990	0.960
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO.LTD	17,429	1.870	1.870	1.800
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO	11,705	1.040	1.050	1.060
MAYSAR DIES & MOULDS	9,050	1.050	1.040	0.960
EL-ZAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	14,449	2.150	2.150	2.190
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	21,444	1.450	1.450	1.430
UNIVERSAL METALS	1,298	1.980	1.280	1.960
MID PHARMA	8,152	0.970	0.970	0.990
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI	21,869	9.090	9.090	2.090
JORDAN STEEL	89,665	1.010	1.010	1.000
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	16,997	0.830	0.890	0.850
UNION TOBACCO	29,927	1.690	1.690	1.670
RASI PHARMACEUTICALS	5,206	0.950	0.960	0.910
INDUSTRIES ENGINEERING	14,759	0.870	0.870	0.860
INDUSTRIAL CERAMIC	100,841	1.450	1.450	1.290
2.TEXTILE MANUFACTURER	7,427	0.900	0.900	0.840
PEARL SANITARY PAPER CONVERTING	87,998	0.950	0.950	0.960
GRAND TOTAL	752519			

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 19/7/95	Tokyo Close Date 20/7/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5984	1.5976**
Deutsche Mark	1.3752	1.3775
Swiss Franc	1.1465	1.1491**
French Franc	4.7840	4.7970**
Japanese Yen	87.33	87.68
European Curreny Unit	1.3460	1.3428**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates — Date: 20/7/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.68
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.56	6.75	7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.31	4.43
Swiss Franc	2.34	2.56	2.68	2.93
French Franc	6.50	6.31	6.12	6.00
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.62	0.56	0.56
European Currency Unit	6.00	6.96	6.06	6.15

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals — Date: 20/7/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	368.30	7.50	Silver	5.18	0.110

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 20/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.1095	1.1150
Deutsche Mark	0.5044	0.5069
Swiss Franc	0.6051	0.6081
French Franc	0.1446	0.1455
Japanese Yen*	0.7925	0.7965
Dutch Guilder	0.4501	0.4524
Swedish Krona	******	******
Italian Lira*	0.0430	0.0432
Belgian Franc	******	******

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3618/28	Canadian dollar
	1.3864/74	Deutschemarks
	1.5536/46	Dutch guilders
	1.1550/60	Swiss francs
	28.51/55	Belgian francs
	4.8105/55	French francs
	1601.4/6.4	Italian lire
	88.50/60	Japanese yen
	7.1525/25	Swedish crowns
	6.1640/90	Norwegian crowns
	5.3960/10	Danish crowns
One sterling	$1.5936/46	
One ounce of gold	$386.30/386.60	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Furnished Apartment
Located in established area on quiet road within walking distance from Third Circle. Three bedrooms (or 2 bedrooms and an office) Telephone, covered car garage, central and solar heating, satellite dish, water well.
Abdoun Real Estate
810605 -810609

A SECURE Hotel Sweifiyeh
Turino Flat.O.TEL
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel
FLAT .O. TEL
الأجنحة الفندقية المكيفة
الملوكية بمستوى عالمي جديد!
863944 - 816690

Cheers Cafe' Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE' Sweifiyeh
816690
At Turino

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefieh tel: 823891

للايجار
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman
for further details please call
SANABEL REAL ESTATE
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

For Rent
Deluxe Furnished and Unfurnished Villas apartments and office Space To Suit all Budgets
681113 688816
For Rent - For Rent

NOTHING FAR WITH RELIABLE RENT A CAR
RELIABLE ABDOUN 819676

SZECHWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 3:30 & 6:30 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shat Al-Arab Street Um Uthainah Commercial Centre
Tel.: 861174
Once Tasted Always Loved

MING-SHING Chinese Restaurant
The Best Cooking, Best Service, Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghbar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate
Open from: 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Tel.: 861838

AVIS RENTACAR
King Abdullah Gardens
Tel. 699420 - 816499

Quality in Lamps, lighting and electrical materials
OSRAM Germany
SCHWABE Germany
WOFI Germany
LEUCI Italy
ERC Italy
PUK Italy
AND OTHERS
MINWER - Jabal Al-Hussein
Tel: 613746 - 613622

Your Address in Amman
CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Resonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

Piano Bar Restaurant Turino
EAT & TELL
With Self & Nawfal
Haute Cuisine ITALO - MED
Sweifiyeh 863944

VILLA D'ANGELO
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Jabal Amman
Tel 638212
Air-conditioned Lounge and Outside Terrace

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

CROWN HOTEL
☆ OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL
☆ TENNIS COURT
☆ SAUNA & JACUZZI
TEL: 758180
SALES OFFICE 605843-690157
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

YVES SAINT LAURENT Karl Lagerfeld
SUMMER Sale
UP TO 50%
At BADIA BOUTIQUE
Ext: Ranbow St.
Tel: 657094

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL 667171/6-670141/4 Ext. 223

DAJANI'S Unique gold & gems jewelry.

Armstrong wins emotional 18th stage, dedicates win to Casartelli

LIMOGES, France (AFP) – American Lance Armstrong woo an emotional 18th stage of the Tour de France on Friday, dedicating the win to his teammate Italian Fabio Casartelli, who was killed on Tuesday's stage.

Armstroog, 23, raised his fists and pointed to the heavens above registering that the win bere was dedicated to Casartelli, killed on the run to Cauterets.

The American completed the 167km from Montpoo-Meoesterol in 3hrs 47minutes and 53seconds.

Armstrong said: "I didn't think about winning the stage, the heat or the team spoosor. I was just thinking about Fabio Casartelli.

"It was a bittersweet victory for nothing can replace Fabio."

The Texan, world champioo in 1993, had lost to Ukranian Sergei Outschakov in a sprint finish on Saturday. He had surprised many by attacking that day as he had publicly said Limoges would be where he made his mark.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Armstrong, a winner of the 1993 stage into Verdun, seized his opportunity 28 kilometres from the finish. Already part of a 12 man breakaway including Britain's Max Sciandri, be outwitted them at the top of a hill.

While the rest of the group relaxed and took some refreshment, Armstrong sped away and by the time the group realised what had happened he had established a sizeable gap.

Armstrong asked why he bad escaped when be did replied: "I lost out last Saturday and although I didn't plan to attack on the hill I didn't want to get into a sprint finish with them."

Hotly pursued by Dutchman Martin Den Bakker and Italian Andrea Tafi, Armstrong stretched the gap to 55 seconds.

Tafi and Den Bakker were swept aside by the remnants of the leading group and Armstrong's lead began to descend.

Armstrong though rode as a man possessed and crossed the line to a thunderous reception, 30 seconds clear of Italian Andre Ferrigato and Russian Viachteslav Ekimov.

Oo Wednesday, the peloton made way for the Motorola team to cross the line ahead of them, but Friday's victory capped a fine Tour for Armstroog.

Andre Agassi

Agassi comes back full circle

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Andre Agassi finds the view from the top at the ATP Washington Classic much nicer than the personal low he felt here just one year ago.

Agassi was ousted by 74th-ranked Brett Steven last year in a second round match. He rebounded the next week to win in Toronto and begin a nine-month climb to the world number one ranking.

"I was struggling with my confidence here last year. Washington was an all-time low for me," Agassi said. "A year later, it's completely the opposite. I'm feeling as confident as ever."

Self-assured Agassi beat fellow American Michael Joyce 6-2, 6-2, Thursday in the third round of the $675,000 hardcourt event. Agassi, faces Colombia's Mauricio Hadad in a Friday quarterfinal, the farthest he has advanced here in three tries since winning in 1990 and 1991.

"This is a good building block," Agassi said. "I like starting the summer in an atmosphere where there isn't too much stress. It's a good event but it's not going to attract all the top guys."

Agassi, the reigning U.S. and Australian Open champion, has not won a tournament since replacing Pete Sampras atop the ranking 14 weeks ago. A victory here would close the circle on his rebel-to-royalty rise.

"It has been a hell of a year for me," Agassi said. "I wasn't feeling like I could win close matches a year ago. Losing might have been a blessing in disguise. I had time to practise and during that time I really turned things around. Now a lot of the pieces have come together."

Agassi is 75-11 over the past 12 months and has victories this year at San Jose and Key Biscayne as well as Australia. He has stretched his points lead over Sampras, but must now defend titles while Sampras can gain ground quickly because he was injured at this time in 1994.

"I try to be number one every time I step onto the court," Agassi said. "When you're number one, you look down and see what others are doing to knock you off. I just try to maintain this level as long as I possibly can.

"There are times when you allow the pressure to get to you. It depends on where your mind is. As days go by, you think about being better. It's that deep fire inside that keeps pushing you."

Agassi rejects third-ranked Boris Becker's notion that his game was helped at Wimbledon by favourable scheduling times and centre court matches because of his rich shoe endorsement deal.

"Maybe they like my haircut better than his," the close-cropped crowd pleasure said of his buzz cut.

"I definitely don't get onto the outer courts. But I'm not so sure it's a positive. He can have my place if he wants it. I would give it to him."

Defending champion and second seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat Kenya's Paul Wekesa 6-2, 6-1, and advanced into a quarterfinal against Italy's Caratti.

NBA announces schedule

NEW YORK (AP) – Despite a lockout that threatens the start of the season, the NBA released its 1995-96 schedule on Thursday for the expanded 29-team league.

The league's two new teams, Vancouver and Torooto, are scheduled to debut on Friday, Nov. 3, when they will be two of 28 teams in action.

The Raptors, who will play in the central division, will open at home against the New Jersey Nets. The Grizzlies, members of the Midwest division, will play Portland at the Trail Blazers' New Rose Gardeo facility.

Vancouver's first home date is set for Nov. 5 against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Grizzlies and Raptors will meet in the NBA's first all-Canadian matcbup oo Dec. 10 at Vancouver.

The two-time defending champioo Houston Rockets open their seasoo Nov. 3 against the Goldeo State Warriors.

On Christmas day, Eastern Confereoce champion Orlando will get a chance to avenge its NBA finals sweep by playing host to Houston in a nationally televised game.

In the first labour actioo io its history, the NBA locked out its players on July 1 after the players' association failed to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement.

The league released its new schedule along with a press release that noted it was cootingent upon reaching a oew labour deal "in a timely fashion."

Muster faces Bruguera in rematch

STUTTGART, Germany (AFP) – Austrian Thomas Muster and Spaniard Sergi Bruguera both won through to the semifinals of the 1-million dollar tournament here on Friday and face a rematch of their Italian Open final meeting in May, which Muster won.

Muster thrashed Spanlard Tomas Carbonell, world ranking of 90, 6-2, 6-0 in 53 minutes which was just as well as the temperature oo court reached 35 degrees.

The blonde Austrian, renowned for his remarkable stamina, was dismissive about suggestions that it was too hot saying: "It was as tough for the other guy as it was for me. Maybe I just handled it a bit bener."

Bruguera, 24, despatcbed the last German survivor Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 89th, 6-3, 6-4 in just over an bour.

The Spaniard, a two-time French Open winner, said he was still anxious about his knees, one of which he had operated on in February earlier this year.

Bruguera said: "I was favouring my other knee. That burt my other good knee. It has beeo difficult to protect the knees and train all-out."

The other semi-final will pit Swede doubles specialist Jan Apell, straight sets wioner over compatriot Magnus Gustafsson, against France's Arnaud Boetsch.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A865 ♡A ◇A987 ♣A642
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?
A.—Slam is in the air, but not necessarily in diamonds! Spades could be the right spot, particularly if you play five-card majors, so start investigating with a simple response of one spade. The real headache will come on the later rounds of the auction because yours is not an easy hand to describe.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ762 ♡KJ4 ◇83 ♣AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♡	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?
A.—The auction has developed most favorably for you. Jump to five spades. That signifies a desire to play slam, but shows two fast losers in the unbid suit—in this case diamonds. Blackwood is of no use here—you won't know what to do if partner shows only one ace.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠73 ♡J106 ◇Q72 ♣A9653
The bidding has proceeded:

East	South	West	North
3 ◇	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	?		

What action do take?
A.—Although it seems automatic to bid four clubs, think for a moment. Partner's takeout double is major-suit oriented, so you might have no good fit. You rate to produce two tricks on defense and partner's cards are well placed behind West. Convert the double to penalties by passing.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K106 ♡AK1075 ◇KJ96 ♣A
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	1 NT	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?
A.—Despite partner's discouraging response, we would insist on reaching game with this primish hand. Jump shift to three diamonds. If partner takes a heart preference, go on to four hearts; if partner bids three no trump, pass; if partner raises diamonds, you're committed to bid the minor-suit game.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠876 ♡AQJ ◇AKJ4 ♣AK8
What is your opening bid?
A.—Having no spade stopper in a powerful, balanced hand is an obvious flaw. However, we don't think you can ever catch up if you elect to open the hand one diamond. Bid two no trump.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A87 ♡Void ◇97652 ♣AK852
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?
A.—Normally, with two five-card suits you would first respond in the higher-ranking and then bid the other. Here, however, your diamonds are so weak that we would downgrade the suit to a four-bagger and respond two clubs, highlighting where our values lie.

AQUAMARINA HOTELS

Special Offer

JD 20 B/B at Aquamarina I
JD 16 B/B at Aquamarina III

Per person per night in double room including breakfast, service & tax

Please call 316250 & 319425

A leading Catering Company is seeking a highly qualified Food & Beverage Manager with at least 7 years experience in the field.
Benefits & salary commensurate with experience and background.
All interested applicants should send their CV's to
P.O. Box 910571
Amman 11191
Attn.: F & B Manager

International Community School
P.O.Box 2002, Khilda, Amman

The International Community School, in Khilda, is seeking to appoint a **Nursery Class Teacher** (for 3-4 year olds) for September 1995. Interested applicants should be native speakers with the NNEB, Montessori or other equivalent Nursery diploma.
Potential candidates should contact the School Office to arrange a visit by 1:30 p.m., Monday, 24th July.
Tel: 841070 **Fax: 847109**

INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATION SCIENCES AT MU'TAH UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1 - The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development project from the International Bank of Reconstructioo and Development-the World Bank - and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation.

2 - The Respective purchasers namely:
Mu'tah University in Karak.

hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Educatioo Sciences of MU to apply for bidding documeots and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipmeot to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the Faculty.

3 - Interested eligible bidders may obtain further informatioo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St. Jabal Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 22,1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4 - A complete set of Bidding Documeots may be obtained from the above referred office upon submissioo of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in casb made out io favour of the Mu'tah University. Price of purchasiog the documents would be the equivalent, amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For Delivery to personal callers JD 15.000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25:000 per Lot plus JD 50 for all Lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded oo a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requiremeots of the cootracts to be signed, Bidders could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submissioo will be ooon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Mu'tah University

FOR RENT
Furnished apartments for rent. Super deluxe, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, noise & weather proof, central heating, new building, new furniture. Owner lives in building.
For more info. call Shams 839418, 839417

DUTY UNPAID PICKUP FOR SALE TOYOTA HILUX
Double cabin, model 1990, mileage 91000 km, petrol.
For more information please contact British Embassy.
Bids in sealed envelopes will be accepted starting Saturday July 22, addressed to Assistant Management Officer, P.O.Box (87).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
A modern developing industrial company, in the Zarqa area, 20 kms from Amman, needs an Executive Secretary. Good command of English, experience with computers: Word Processing (Arabic & English) and spreadsheets, are necessary requirements. Transport means available. salary according to qualifications.
Please send full application C.V. to:
The Managing Director
P.O.Box 9823 Amman 11191

Job Opportunity

A Multinational Co. is in need for one clerk for their computer section

All applicants must have / be:

1- Diplome in programming and system analysis.
2- Minimum three years experience in Finance / Accounting / Data entry and processing.
3- Excellent command of both Arabic and English, spoken and written.
4- Adequate knowledge of FOX programme and DOS operating system.
5- Age between 25-35 years old.

Kindly send C.V. with current photograph before Aug. 2nd to:

P.O.Box 5719
Amman 11183, Jordan.

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA
Harrison Ford with William Dafe & Anne Archer in
Clear & Present Danger
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in
Easy to Get
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Baby's day out
Shows: 12:30, 5:15
Only you
Shows: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
Street Fighter
Shows: 3:30, 5:30, 10:45

AMMOUN THEATRE
TEL:618274 - 618275
MUSA HIJAZIN
"sumaa'"
IN
Hi Citizen
daily at 8,30 pm
written & directed by
Mohammed Shawaqfeh

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
TEL:675571
Presents
KABARET
Abeer Issa
Ghassan Mashini
with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Husseini and Issam Al Hanbali
The theatre closes on Monday
Performances start at 8:30 p.m.

Nabil & Hisham's Tel:625155
AHLAN THEATRE
presents
(Ahlan Tatbee')
Welcome
Normalisation
Shows start at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman

Berlusconi presents 'dream team'

MILANELLO, Italy (AP) – Apparently not distracted by his political and business duties, Silvio Berlusconi on Thursday took time to present AC Milan's "wooder team" to the media, saying he expected to win next year's "Scodetto."

"We have set up a team which can produce high-quality, offensive, spectacular soccer. A team which can keep AC Milan among Italy's most known labels in the world," said Berlusconi, the Red Devils' president.

Berlusconi, who joked that AC Milan is the second-most recognised thing from Italy behind pizza, said he expected to return to the top of the serie a and the European Champions Cup final.

After a bad start last season followed by a series of injuries, Milan missed a chance to win a fourth straight Italian League crown and also lost the champions cup final to Ajax Amsterdam in May.

Berlusconi spent about 40 billion lire ($25 million) to acquire French striker George weah, Italian forward Roberto Baggio and Portuguese Paulo Futre and give coach Fabio Capello a stellar forward line also including Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, Italian internationals Marco Simone and Gianluigi Lentini and Croat Zvonmimir Boban.

"Our motto is to win entertaining the fans with spectacular play," Berlusconi said.

The club president said Weah and Baggio will give the team the offensive power which AC Milan has missed since the dissolution of the Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten.

Gullit and Rijkaard both left Milan two years ago while Van Basten has been sidelined by a chronic ankle injury for two years.

Van Basten, who has had three operations on the ankle, joined his teammates for the presentation of the team but his comeback still is highly uncertain.

"Marco has improved lately. We hope that a dream can come true. That a miracle can happen and we can see, again on the field, the strongest centreforward AC Milan has ever had," Berlusconi said.

Berlusconi travelled to AC Milan training camp hours before announcing the sale of part of his television and advertising assets to foreign investors.

The operation aims to quiet political opponents who claim his vast media holdings pose a conflict of interests with his political ambitions.

Hundreds of fans, who braved 33-degree heat, applauded Berlusconi and the players when they showed up.

Coach Capello then directed the first training session for the Italian first division season, which begins Aug. 27.

African sporting showcase battles financial problems

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Organisers have cancelled shooting events in the upcoming All African Games as the continent's sporting showcase appears to be bogging down in financial problems.

Officials refused Thursday to comment on one report that the entire games programme may have to be reviewed because of severe money constraints.

But MacLoud Chaora, the games general manager, confirmed that pistol and small-bore shooting competitions were called off because host Zimbabwe did not have the $350,000 needed to stage them.

Offers from Egypt, France and Germany to give ammunition, targets and other supplies did not bridge the shortfall, he said.

On Wednesday, the Zimbabwean organising committee appealed to 21 local independent sports associations for help in raising funds for the games, scheduled in Harare and two provincial centres Sept. 12-23.

With less than 40 working days before the opening ceremonies, committee spokesman Ishmael Kadungure said that 200 local private firms targetted recently as possible sponsors had responded poorly.

He did not elaborate, but Wilson Javangwe, head of a working group responsible for marketing the games, said his group still needed at least $10 million to complete its works.

"If you ask us how much we have at the moment, we have nothing," he said.

Edgar Rodgers, manager of Zimbabwe's 590-member team of competitors, complained that money for training has dried up.

Jornalists seeking confirmation of media facilities booked well in advance were warned Thursday to expect shortages of telephones.

Despite lobbying to host the games four years agro and allocating some $60 millioln toward facilities, venues for swimming, boxing and gymnastics and modifcations at Harare's 60,000-seat Chinese-built sports stadium have not been completed.

POSITION VACANCY

American contracting firm working in Jordan seeks a Human Resources Development (HRD) Manager to :

- Represent firm in all HRD matters, functions, contracts with GOJ officials, and public.
- Serve as contract manager for HRD related contracts , including procurement of goods and services,
- Organize and manage overseas and in - country training programs,
- Draft and finalize (English & Arabic) all reports related to the position.

Position Qualifications :

1. Jordanian citizenship.
2. BSc Degree from accredited university.
3. 3-5 years experience as HRD manager / trainer.
4. Working knowledge of USAID policies, regulations, and procedures for overseas training and procurement,
5. ALI/GU Test score of 270 or higher (Current/Official test results from Modern Language Center Jabal Weibdeh or American Language Center, Third Circle)
6. Computer / typing skills (English & Arabic), and working knowledge of following applications in Windows environment :
   MS WORD - MS Excel - Lotus Notes - cc Mail
7. Utilize Apple / Mac for Desk Top publishing.

Procedure : Qualified persons send application letter (English), Resume, with salary history, and ALI/GU results to :

HRD

P.O.Box 851532 AL- Suwefiyah 11185 Amman

Applications close on 12:00 Noon, July 31, 1995

AD.TECH.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Board of Trustees, Administration and Staff of the Amman Baccalaureate School would like to congratulate the Class of '95 for their outstanding results with the usual pass rate of 100% in the Tawjihi Science Stream and an average score of 93.5%, as well as a record pass rate of 91% amongst the International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates.

Very special congratulations go to Nadine Hani Farah who ranked ***First*** amongst the 8402 IB Diploma candidates world-wide in the May 1995 session by obtaining ***a perfect 45 point Diploma.***

Special congratulations also go to Ghassan Bashir Alami and Bisher Suhail Kawar who obtained 44 and 43 points respectively and are ranked amongst the top 1% of all 1995 IB candidates in the world.

Congratulations to all ABS students, and best of luck in their future life.

Brazil beats U.S. 1-0 to reach final

Copa America

MALDONADO, Uruguay (AP) - The United States' great soccer adventure ended Thursday night.

Facing the world's best team, the Americans lost 1-0 to Brazil in the semifinals of the America Cup, a showcase event in which the United States played for two weeks as if it belonged in such elite company.

"We have closed the gap between the United States and Brazil," U.S. coach Steve Sampson said. "We went forward and played attacking soccer where a year ago we were defending most of the game, hoping to get to penalty kicks."

Brazil, a four-time World Cup champion, scored in the 13th minute on a header by Aldair and will play Uruguay on Sunday in the finals of the South American championships.

The Brazilians extended their unbeaten streak to 25 games, their last loss coming to Germany in 1993. They limited the United States to two good scoring chances, both by defender Alexi Lalas.

The Americans, eliminated by Brazil 1-0 in the second round of last summer's World Cup, were playing in the semifinals of a major international tournament for the first time since the 1930 World Cup.

"We're upset, really upset," U.S. goalkeeper Brad Friedel said. "We felt we had a chance. You feel [illegible] your stomach coming off the field. England played the same team this summer in Wembley and lost 3-1. We lost here 1-0. That tells you everything."

The United States will play Colombia for third place on Saturday in Maldonado. The two countries played to a scoreless tie last month in Piscataway, New Jersey.

The United States beat Chile, Argentina and Mexico on the way to the semifinals, but faced a far stronger opponent in Brazil.

The Americans struggled throughout the first half, with Brazil almost in constant possession.

The Americans, who were invited to this 12-nation tournament along with Mexico, have now lost all seven games they have played against Brazil, outscored 22-3 and 18-0 since 1930.

Brazilian coach Mario Zagalo said he was impressed by the U.S. but claimed his side should have won by more goals.

"the U.S. are competitive and have shown that they're not just any side," he said. "But we had four or five chances and our goalkeeper Taffarel had no saves to make in the 90 minutes."

The game, coming in the height of the southern hemisphere winter, was often played at a walking pace in the first 10 minutes, with Brazil twice coming close to scoring. Winger Roberto Carlos sent a 20-yard shot go just wide and Zinho later shaved the left post from outside the box.

In the 13th minute, however, Brazil struck when Juninho floated a free kick from the left side of the penalty area. Aldair, a defender, eluded John Harkes and rose unchallenged to beat Friedel with a point-blank header.

In the 29th minute, the United States had its opportunity when Eric Wynalda crossed to Lalas. He sent a header toward goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel but Aldair headed it away.

The midfield triangle of Zinho, Dunga and Juninho proved too much for the Americans. And Edmundo, taking advantage of a poor header by Lalas, came inches from widening the lead after 23 minutes.

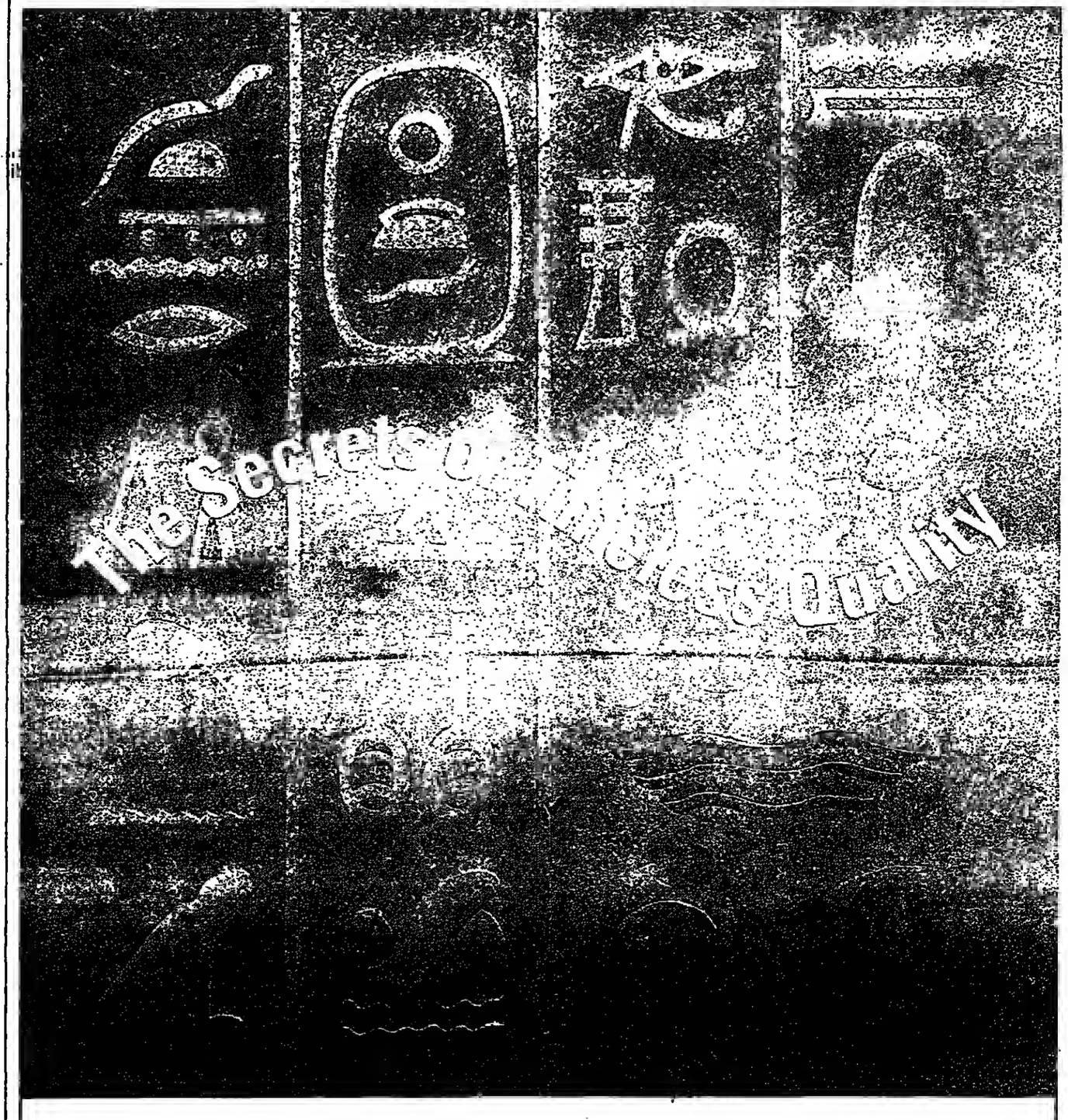
In a grittier second half, the United States picked up the tempo and Brazil, happy to sit on a slender lead, began to lose its composure. Juninho, outstanding throughout the tournament, became almost invisible in midfield.

The Americans came close to tying the score with a header by Lalas shortly after halftime and Wynalda began to trouble the defence. However, Wynalda had to be substitued after 77 minutes because of pulled muscle.

Brazil, pinned back in its own half, looked less like a champion at that point and more like a tired team waiting for the final whistle.

"We've learned a tremendous amount at this tournament," Lalas said. "And we've also proved a lot not only to the world but ourselves."

A file photo showing Brazilian soccer player Dunga (right) hitting the ground as he kicks the ball away from Roberto Palacios of Peru in an earlier Copa America match



Hard work and dedication of past civilizations, are the secrets behind their timeless heritage and revered artwork. Following these same principles, GROHE gained their experience and developed an innovative team, which received worldwide acclaim by achieving the highest international standards in the industry. Each faucet, shower head, mixer, thermostat and lever are a symbol of GROHE's performance and quality. The wide range of colours and unique design reflect the versatile creativity of GROHE. For years to come, the secrets of timeless quality will be revealed in each item, leaving behind a distinctive heritage of GROHE craftsmanship.

GROHE

WHERE BEAUTY MEETS QUALITY

= GROHE = DURABLE = BEAUTIFUL = FROM THE WEST

Pacific nations urge France not to resume nuclear testing

Japanese deputies call for boycotting French products

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese legislators called for a boycott of French goods Friday to protest at the resumption of nuclear tests, while in Australia and New Zealand suspicions grew France might carry out more than the eight blasts it has already announced.

The 47 Japanese lawmakers, from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the centrist New Party Sakigake, joined with representatives of a smaller party to issue a joint statement that also urged the Japanese government to recall Japan's ambassador to France, Jiji Press reported.

This "the first time that Japanese parliament members have openly called for consumers to boycott French goods, and the SDP and Sakigake are two of the parties in the ruling coalition.

The third party in the protest is a small group called Citizens for Peace, which has no seats in parliament.

The SDP is headed by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and the New Party Sakigake by Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, who said Friday he would join Australian and New Zealand politicians in a South Pacific protest flotilla to Mururoa in French Polynesia where the first test will be held in September.

Also Friday seven groups of atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima decided to campaign for a boycott of French products, following the decision of similar groups in Nagasaki, officials said.

"The boycott is a means for us to achieve our goal of persuading France to retract its nuclear testing plans. It's an expression of our resolve that such tests should never be resumed," said Masahiko Kajishita, secretary-general of victims association headed by Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka.

Earlier Friday, New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger described as a "disturbing twist" comments by the French ambassador in Wellington that appeared to say Paris may carry out more nuclear tests than the eight it has announced.

Mr. Bolger's remarks came after ambassador Jacques le Blanc told Radio New Zealand Friday that his nation would not rule out the possibility of further nuclear testing while negotiations were continuing on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Le Banc reportedly said that although there was a 99 per cent probability all countries would sign the CTBT, France would not rule out further testing so long as it still had the option to carry out "real" tests.

Mr. Bolger said he and his Australian counterpart Paul Keating would discuss the new fears at a scheduled meeting in Melbourne on Saturday, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

In Canberra, two protesters wearing radiation suits and masks climbed a 12-metre grill-like metal facade at the front of the embassy building to unfurl a huge banner proclaiming "SOS Mururoa."

They suspended themselves "like abseilers from the top of the facade while the others chained themselves to the bottom," a spokesman for the Australian Federal Police said.

"They didn't enter the building, but they did penetrate the embassy grounds which have no fence," the spokesman said.

Six protesters were arrested. Five were expected to appear in court charged with trespassing on prohibited property later Friday, while the sixth, a 16-year-old girl, was a juvenile who would be officially cautioned.

In a separate Australian protest, maritime workers voted here Friday to ban the entry of French ships to Australian ports.

Port bans have alteady held up a number of Frencb-owned ships, including the government-owned DGM Renoir which was stranded here Friday amid claims it was carrying nuclear waste from the French nuclear testing site of Mururoa.

In a more bizarre and letbal protest move bere, police warned Friday that needles have been inserted in loaves of "French" fruit bread in what was believed to have been a misguided statement against French nuclear testing.

Japanese Science and Technology Minister Makiko Tanakao called on French President Jacques Chirac to permanently halt nuclear testing, saying France was setting a bad example to the world.

"Nations that possess nuclear weapons must show their wisdom and set an example to countries that do not have nuclear weapons," she said in a letter, a copy of which was obtained by AFP.

Meanwhile, a student pleaded guilty Friday to firebombing the French consulate in Perth last month but denied the action was a protest against France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Bosco Boscovich, 20, a student at Curtin (Perth) University, entered his plea during a brief appearance in Perth Magistrate's Court.

"He wishes the court to be aware that he is not connected with any terrorist organisation or any anti-French movement whatsoever," said a statement read by Mr. Boscovich's lawyer, Richard Utting.

"There were ill-conceived, spur of the moment acts for which he is ready to accept tbe appropriate penalty," he said.

In Moscow, the State Duma, the lower chamber of Russia's parliament, Thursday joined the chorus of protests against France's decision to resume nuclear testing.

The lawmakers unanimously passed a statement saying Russia is "seriously concerned" with President Chirac's decision to hold a series of eight nuclear tests at the South Pacific Atoll of Mururoa in September.

The Duma asked Mr. Chirac and the French parliament to drop the plan.

"Russia, as a Pacific country, believes that such tests are dangerous for the fragile system of coral reefs," the statement said.

SERBS WARNED: British Prime Minister John Major (R) opens the London international conference on Bosnia at Lancaster House Friday. U.S. delegation headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher (L) and Defence Secretary William Perry (2L) with Chief of Staff John Shalikashvili (C) listen. Mr. Major is flanked by British Foreign Secretary Malcom Rifkin. The conference warned the Serbs against attacking Gorazde (AFP photo)

Carter, Moi discuss Sudan war

NAIROBI (AFP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi conferred Friday on ways to end the civil war in Sudan, which is pitting the Arabised, Muslim north against Christian and animist rebels in the south.

Mr. Carter arrived in the Kenyan capital after holding talks in Khartoum with President Omar Hassan Al Bashir and visiting disputed areas in the south as well as the Kenyan border town of Lokichoggio, home to thousands of southern Sudanese refugees.

In Khartoum, he proposed an extension of a ceasefire between government forces and rebels which he negotiated in March, and wbich is due to expire at the end of this month.

That proposal met with scepticism from the Khartoum government, with Deputy Foreign Minister Gbazi Salaheddine saying it would "benefit the rebels."

Mr. Moi is chairman of the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development, a regional body which is playing an increasingly active role in settling disputes.

Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Moi for his mediation efforts, and for the welcome Kenya had accorded to the Sudanese refugees, Kenyan officials said.

World pressure grows on Nigeria for release of Obasanjo

LAGOS (Agencies) — Nigeria's military regime faced mounting worldwide pressure Friday to release or show clemency to conspirators facing death or lengthy jail sentences over an alleged coup plot.

Three former British prime ministers and ex-German chancellor Helmut Schmidt urged the release of former Nigerian leader Organisation for African Unity (OAU) meanwhile warned of the threat to stability and security which the reported sentences would have on Lagos.

However there was no indication Friday of Nigeria's official response to the rising criticism.

Nigerian news reports said 14 alleged plotters, civilians and military, were condemned to death for their part in the alleged March coup and Mr. Obsaojo and 10 others received life sentences.

The reported sentences were revealed earlier this week after a secret trial in front of a military tribunal. There is no right of appeal.

Secret trials conducted without regard to due process of law send tbe wrong signal to the world bank about your intentions for Nigeria," the former premiers — Lord James Callaghan, Sir Edward Heath and Lady Margaret Thatcher — and Mr. Schmidt said in a statement obtained by AFP.

Nigeria was at a watershed," they said, urging Mr. Abacha to "show statesmanship at this critical time. This is a time to heal wounds and build Nigeria's future."

Mr. Obasanjo, who in October 1979 became the first African military ruler to hand over power to an elected civilian regime, had "done mueh for his country in the past" and "enhanced the image and status of Nigeria internationally," the statement said.

"We call on you to release General Obasanjo and to show clemency towards the others. There has been oo bloodshed since you took over the reins of office (on Nov. 17, 1993).

"You have the opportunity to end the cycle of violence, of coup and counter-coup, and to open the way towards a lasting political transition that will ensure Nigeria's unity, strength, stability and future prosperity," the text added.

Condemnation at the sentences has poured in from countries and organisations such as the United Nations, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, the United States and the Vatican.

Although the reported sentences have been neither confirmed nor denied, they are due to be ratified by the Provisional Ruling Coucil (PRC), Nigeria's supreme body.

African leaders also asked Mr. Abacha, who chairs the PRC, to show clemency.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim said in a statement in Addis Ababa he was gravely concerned at "the implications which the reported sentences of those found guilty of nthe offence could have on the continued stability, security, unity, as well as the international image and role of Nigeria."

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki arrived in Nigeria, Friday for talks with the country's military leaders.

He is to deliver a message to Mr. Abacha from President Nelson Mandela and will discuss the "present political situation in Nigeria and matters of common interest," said a statement.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma wrote to Abaeha calling on him "to show your presence of mind and sound judgment in this difficult situation by sparing the livs and the agony of the accused," the Namibian media reported.

"Carrying out such harsh sentences against the accused will not do any good for Nigeria. Instead it will invite more wrath, indignation and isolation from the internatioonal community," he added.

Ghanaian head of state Jerry Rawlings arrived here Friday on a short visit during whicb he is also expected to plead the cause of those sentenced.

In Washington meanwhile both the Clinton administration and the U.S. Senate leadership have warned Nigeria of serious consequences unless it moves towards democracy.

Kingdom raises

(Continued from page 1)

Bosnians.

"I appreciate the donations and contributions from all Jordanians and Arabs and from our friends that will help put an end to the massacres. I thank everybody and every child and every friend," the King said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who visited the studio and participated in a telephone interview with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, called on Arab and Muslim countries to establish an alms fund.

"The Muslim World has a stand, and our message is very clear, world should think about the establishment of an Islamic Zakat foundation in a world preoccupied with arms.

"We should make the whole world feel that there is a unanimous humanitarian will. The Zakat fund has been a demand. Now it is an essential matter," he said.

The Bosnian Prime Minister expressed appreciation to Jordan's initiative and said the situation in Bosnia is very tragic.

"Aggressions are continuing on safe enclaves," he said.

In reply, the Crown Prince said: "We are with you and with the Bosnian people. We hope that safe areas would be ruled out from the conflict."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, expressing his solidarity with the Bosnians, donated three thousand dollars. Mr. Rabin, who last week telephoned the King to discuss the crisis in Bosnia, said his country would coordinate relief efforts with Amman to help the Bosnians.

"I told King Hussein that Israel condemns such atrocities (against Bosnians) and will speak loudly about it," he said.

In his telephone call to the programme, the King said: "I called the French President and I thanked him for the efforts that he is exerting and expressed appreciation of his country's stand. I confirmed to him that Jordan is participating in the peackeeping forces in former Yugoslavia until the international group fulfils all its tasks."

The programme, which continued until midnight yesterday, also hosted Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who personally donated JD 10,000 and contributed another JD 20,000 from the government. He criticised the international community's stand vis-a-vis the situation in Bosnia: "While they talk about promoting human rights principles, they do not take any action to put an end to inhumane massacres," he said.

Donations, reached more than JD 3 million, came from people in Jordan as well as Yemen, Iraq, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Israel.

The programme also hosted scores of religious leaders, prominent personalities, actors and officials and broadcast songs that call for stopping the massacres and putting an end to violence and war.

One of the hosts was Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi who said: "It is not only the religious relationship that binds us with Bosnia but there is also the humanitarian one."

Also hosted on the programme were Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour, Minister of Social Development Salwa Masri, President of the Jordanian Journalists Association Suleiman Qudah, spokesperson of the Islamic Action Front, Hamzeh Mansour, journalist Musa Kilani, as well as Christian clergymen who made in generous contributions on behalf of different Christian institutions in Jordan.

Abdullah Khatib, head of the General Union of Charitable Societies, said a special lottery will be made for the occasion of the Bosnian day.

On Thursday, the Jordanian government issued a statement urging the U.N. and the world major powers to shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis the situation in Bosnia, halt the Serbian aggression and lift the arms embargo on Bosnia should the conflict continue.

The statement, issued by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and handed to the U.N. Secretary General in New York, said that the "Jordanian government has been following with deep concern and outrage the deteriorating situation in Bosnia, resulting frnm Serbian aggression and tbe dangerous violation of human rights against the Bosnian Muslims.

"The Jordanian government is appalled at the situation and is concerned over the lack of proper and effective action on the part of the U.N. and the major powers to stop the aggression," the statement said.

While strnngly condemning Serbian aggression, the government demanded that the U.N. and the world powers lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian natinn to allow it to acquire weapons for self-defence and to open "the way for those countries that are willing to offer assistance to the Bosnian people."

The statement also said that the U.N. should honour its own Charter and rally in aid of victims of aggression.

PLO says gaps remain

(Continued from page 1)

rights of both sides and their just requirements," he said. "Herefore we informed the Israeli side that we will not sign an agreement before we agree on the issue of water."

Israel has said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed at a meeting with Mr. Peres in Alexandria on Wednesday to delay talks on water rights in exchange for letting Palestinians use untapped resources.

Palestinian Authority member Saeb Erekat, in charge of talks on elections, said no deal had been reached on the participation of East Jerusalem's 160,000 Arabs in elections.

The PLO wants East Jerusalem to run for election and that the voting be held in the boly city. Israel says it has agreed to let Palestinians run but insists that candidates must have a second West Bank address.

Meanwhile, Hundreds of Jewish settlers blocked the major roads in the West Bank early Friday with burning tires, large rocks and manpower and scuffled with their Palestinians in a stone-throwing exchange.

The disruptive protests, which held up traffie for two hours on all the major West Bank roadways, followed the killing Tuesday of two Jewish teenagers who were hiking in the West Bank. A Palestinian militant group opposed to Israel-PLO peace negotiations claimed responsibility for the killings.

Settlers at the Beit El settlement, where one of the two youths was buried on Wednesday, said the protests came in response to a feeling that their security was being neglected as Israel and the PLO negotiate the expansion of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

"We are here to demonstrate that we are being heaven forbid being abandoned," said Pinhas Wallerstein, head of local council of Binyamin, an area of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Mr. Wallerstein, speaking on Israel Radio, said settlers threw stones at Palestinians only after the Arab residents began pelting them with stones.

Army Radio said the Beit El protests escalated when settlers began throwing stones and sharp objects at the houses of Arab residents in the area. The Radio report said one settler shot live bullets at Palestinian residents, but no one was injured.

In addition, settlers there blocked the roads with large rocks and burning objects, and scuffled with police before order was restored in the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish parliament rejects open voting system

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's parliament on Friday rejected a proposal that would have ended secret voting on the constitutional amendments Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is pushing as part of a democratisation programme. The amendment on balloting was proposed by the coalition government in an attempt to break the stalemate over planned changes to the 1982 military-era constitution. Vnting on the package of amendments — seen as necessary for Turkey's entrance into a customs union with Europe — was halted two weeks ago after none of the amendments received the two-thirds majority necessary for certain approval. The government hoped open voting would spur support for the package of changes by forcing MPs to stand behind their claims of support.

Iran holds funeral for 2,700 war dead

NICOSIA (R) — Thousands of Iranians marched in a funeral procession after Friday prayers in Tehran to honour 2,700 soldiers killed in the 1980-88 with Iraq. The soldiers' remains were among 3,000 bodies recently unearthed in former war zones, Tehran Radio said. Funeral ceremonies for the remaining 300 were held in the southern city of Kerman on Wednesday.

Saudi to replace expatriates by Saudis — minister

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia intends eventually to replace the six million expatriate workers who represent about a third of the total population with Saudi nationals, Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz said. "Replacing the expatriate work force by Saudi nationals is a strategic goal of the state," Prince Nayef bas said in remarks reported by the Saudi press agency. He said "the Saudi national must replace (expatriates) in all kinds of work and at all levels," but he did not mention any time-scale for the proposed swap. Most Gulf Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, are starting to feel the crunch of weak oil prices, extensive welfare systems and billions of dollars of debts arising from the 1990-91 Gulf war, underlining the need to reduce spending.

Hamas newspaper owner questioned

GAZA (AFP) — Gaza police questioned the owner of a Hamas weekly newspaper on Friday after it published an article criticising Palestinian authority leader Yasser Arafat. Emad Faluji, a leader of HAMAS and owner of Al Watan, said: "Police questioned me about the article and its author." The article said: "We know that it is Arafat who decides and makes appointments, it is he who expels, who builds and who destroys." "If we can't talk about it, where is freedom of expression and democracy?" asked Mr. Faluji.

Musa predicts progress in Israeli-Syrian talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa predicted early progress in Israeli-Syrian peace talks in remarks broadcast Thursday. Israeli and Syrian military officials met last month to work out security arrangements for a peace agreement but Syria is delaying a second round. Syria demands that Israel return all of the Golan Heights in return for peace. Israel has expressed readiness for a pullback, but has yet to define any borders. Amr Musa, who meets regularly with Syrian officials, was optimistic despite the problems. "I believe tbat talks will be resumed and progress will be achieved in the not very distant future," Amr Musa said on Army Radio. The Radio said Mr. Musa expected Israel and Syria to reach a preliminary agreement or a security accord by the end of the year. The Egyptian minister added that Syrian President Hafez Assad's unwillingness to go ahead with military talks in Washington was simply characteristic cautinn. "He wants to be sure that before he takes one step ahead, forward or in any direction... that another step taken by the other party," Mr. Musa said.

Opposition accuses Yemeni government of illegal detention

SANAA (AFP) — The oppositinn Islamist Party Al Haq on Friday accused Yemeni police of holding seven protestors who were arrested after a disturbance at a mosque here. They were jailed after holing themselves up inside a mosque to protest a police raid Tuesday on a religious school operated by Al Haq, party officials said. Pnlice denied that any Al Haq supporters were still in jail, saying that all bad been released after the confrontation. Police launched the raid to prevent the school from illegally expanding onto an adjacent public garden, firing intu the air to disperse Al Haq supporters who were throwing stones, police said. Government officials accuse Al Haq of being financed by Iran, while the party accuses Al Islah, a fundamentalist member of the ruling coalition, of wanting to control all Islamist followers in Yemen.

COLUMN 8

Bright lights dim as Thais mourn royal mother

BANGKOK (R) — Entertainment places across Thailand were closed as the country mourned the death of Princess Mother Sri Sangwal, the 94-year-old mother of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Thai court has declared 100 days of mourning while a 15-day period of mourning will be observed nationwide. Bar owners in central Bangkok said police told them that they should close for three days to mourn the princess mother, who died Tuesday. Some television and radio stations cancelled entertainment programmes and replaced them with documentaries about her life and work. Many people wore black to work. The princess mother was admitted to hospital in early June suffering from inflammation in her right lung. Her condition became critical Monday, the royal household said. Thousands of people continued to pay their last respects and perform Buddhist mourning rites at Bangkok's Grand Palace Thursday. No date has been set for her funeral.

Tumour on Larry Hagman's liver is malignant

LOS ANGELES (R) — Larry Hagman, who became a TV legend as scheming oil baron J.R. Ewing in the long-running U.S. nighttime soap Dallas, has a cancerous tumour on his liver and will need a transplant to survive, his doctor said. Hagman disclosed in late June that doctors had detected a small tumour on his liver. Subsequently tests showed it was malignant. The discovery complicates Hagman's earlier diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver, which he developed three years ago, and he has been placed on a national waiting list for a donor liver, said his publicist, Robert Grant: "He requires a liver transplant to survive, to be with us a year from now," said Dr. Leonard Makowka, director of transplant surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre.

Money-laden bag vanishes inside X-ray machine

MANILA (AP) — An X-ray machine at Manila International Airport has made at least six bags disappear — all of them cnntaining large amounts of cash. The losses have led to suspicions that operators have found some way of separating and concealing luggage. In the latest case, Isaac David, an official of an engineering consulting firm, complained that his bag containing travel dncuments and $5,000 vanished in the X-ray machine Tuesday. David said he placed his belt-bag into an X-ray machine conveyor outside the departure area, as instructed by security officers, and it never came out. "I don't know if the machine ate the bag or somebody played David Copperfield," he told the Associated Press, referring to the prominent magician. David, executive vice president of Filipinas Dravo, said the vanishing act forced him to cancel his trip to Vietnam, where he was to pursue discussions on a multimillion-dollar dam project with Hanoi officials. "We might file charges against the personnel concerned. Imagine the opportunity lost because of this incident," he said.

Hanoi streets are world's most dangerous

HANOI (AFP) — The Streets of the Vietnamese capital, once known for their gentle waves of bicycles, are now the world's most dangerous as the accident figures soar with the arrival of thousands of motorbikes, according to a report Friday. "Hanoi now has the highest ratio between the number of fatal casualties and the number of cars on the roads in the world," city transport director Nguyen Thanh Binh wrote in an article in the Vietnam News. The report did not give figures for Hanoi alone but this year more than 100 people have been killed each week across the country. Last year 4,897 people died in traffic accidents and more than 14,000 were seriously injured.